

## Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

### Psalm 83

There are times and places even now where people seem determined to eliminate God's church. These words come out of just that situation. The Psalmist moves from a pessimistic prayer, v1-4, to a positive prayer, v13-16. Even when we list the number of opponents of the gospel, and see their power and influence, we turn to a God before whom they are like tumbleweed.

1 O God, do not remain silent;  
do not turn a deaf ear,  
do not stand aloof, O God.

2 See how your enemies growl,  
how your foes rear their heads.

3 With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish.

Did you notice that word? We are people God cherishes!!!!!!!!!!!!

4 'Come,' they say, 'let us destroy them as a nation,  
so that Israel's name is remembered no more.'

5 With one mind they plot together;  
they form an alliance against you –

6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
of Moab and the Hagrites,

7 Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,  
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.

8 Even Assyria has joined them

to reinforce Lot's descendants. (the Moabites and Ammonites)

A lot of people are ganging up against the Israelites! Sometimes we feel totally alienated as believers in a society moving further and further away from God, both in thinking and in lifestyle.

But God is there, he has worked in history. We also remember 2,000 years of Christians who have found God real as they have laboured to share the gospel and make the world a better place.

9 Do to them as you did to Midian,  
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the River Kishon,

10 who perished at Endor

and became like dung on the ground.

11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,  
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 who said, 'Let us take possession  
of the pasture-lands of God.'

13 Make them like tumble-weed, my God,  
like chaff before the wind.

14 As fire consumes the forest

or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,

15 so pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your storm.

16 Cover their faces with shame, Lord,  
so that they will seek your name.

Note the final phrase - we long that others might seek the Lord.

This is our prayer too, that in this time of Covid crisis, people would turn to God.

17 May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;  
may they perish in disgrace.

18 Let them know that you, whose name is the Lord –  
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

We are cherished for eternity by the Most High God! Therefore we sing [Salvation's song](#)

Gordon