

Israel and the Psalm 83 War

Psalm 83 & Zephaniah 2:1-11

The interest in a future war involving Israel's immediate neighbors started around the time of the Lebanon war, in 2006. A well-preserved Bible, dated to the medieval times, was found opened to the 83rd Psalm in an Irish bog. This sparked an interest in many prophecy students and teachers of the possibility that this prophetic Psalm about judgment against Israel's neighbors could be fulfilled in the near future; especially with the strained and seemingly worsening relationship between Israel and her neighbors, since the nation was born in 1948.

The author of [Psalm 83](#) is "Asaph the seer," who was a prophet, priest and musician ([2 Chronicles 29:30](#), [1 Chronicles 16:37](#), [1 Chronicles 25:6](#)). [Psalm 83](#) is yet a future prophecy because there has been no known fulfillment in Scripture or history. In fact, it seems that this Psalm is speaking of events that could occur today. The seething hatred and common goal the listed members of the confederacy in [Psalm 83](#) have against Israel, has led many to believe, including myself, that fulfillment of this prophetic Psalm could occur very soon.

I use [Psalm 83](#) as a starting point in this study because we find all the members of the confederacy against Israel listed there. The parallel passages go into detailed prophetic judgments against each nation and people group. The names given in all the passages are given by their ancient name. By doing a little historical detective work, we will see that ancient people groups that migrated to other places are distinct from the inhabitants that live within the political borders of these ancient lands today, which is probably why the people groups and the nations are both listed.

The Bible tells us that the nation of Israel accomplishes all the prerequisites for the War of Gog & Magog via a military solution. In victory, they will become primed for the future events of the Russian-Iranian coalition destined to form against them. At the conclusion of this war [the war preceding the War of Gog & Magog known as the Psalm 83 War], Israel's conquest over the inner circle of the surrounding Arab populations of Palestinians, Syrians, Saudi Arabians, Egyptians, Lebanese, and Jordanians will see Israel's borders enlarged, prosperity increased, and national stature remarkably enhanced.

Ezekiel 28:24-26

24 No longer will the people of Israel have malicious neighbors who are painful briars and sharp thorns. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign LORD. 25 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I gather the people of Israel from the nations where they have been scattered, I will show myself holy among them in the sight of the nations. Then they will live in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. 26 They will live there in safety and will build houses and plant vineyards; they will live in safety when I inflict punishment on all their neighbors who maligned them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.

Simply paraphrased: "Yes, they will dwell securely when I [God] execute judgments on all those [Arab Nations] around them who despise them." The Bible tells us that the national security Israel so desperately seeks today occurs via the judgments executed "on all those around them who despise them"

Surprisingly, "all those [Arab Nations] around them who despise" the emerging Jewish State of Israel, are conspicuously absent from the Russian/Iranian led coalition which includes Ethiopia, Libya, and Turkey along with several modern nations. Prophecy buffs have long wondered why this would be the case since presently "all those [Arab nations] around them who despise" Israel are some of the most vehement enemies of Israel. Coincidentally, the Arab nations in question are members of a distinctly separate and yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecy in the form of a petition to God found in Psalm 83:

Psalm 83:1-8

I Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! 2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. 4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." 5 For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot. Selah

We know that the Russian-Iranian led coalition will attempt to invade a militarily secure Israel. This condition of security becomes a reality only after the judgments are executed upon the surrounding Psalm 83 nations. The adversaries of Israel who seek to cut the Jews off from being a nation will form their own coalition. Unfortunately for them, they are described in Ezekiel 28:24-26 as "all those around them who despise them." They are those upon whom God will execute devastating judgments prior to the formation of the Russian-Iranian coalition via the IDF [Israeli Defense Force].

Two Different Wars

Many have confused the events of the War of Gog & Magog with a preceding war described in Psalm, Ezekiel, Obadiah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Zephaniah. Keep in mind that it is God and God alone who destroys the Russian/Iranian coalition. However, in this war [the Psalm 83 War], it is the Israeli army who blessed by God destroys a different Arab coalition.

Ezekiel 25:13-14

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill its men and their animals. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan [Saudi Arabia] they will fall by the sword. I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel [Israeli Defense Force IDF], and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Prerequisites for Israel's Psalm 83 War:

- 1) Jews return back to the Promised Land....Psalm 83:3
- 2) The Nation of Israel re-established.... Psalm 83:4, 12
- 3) An Israeli Defense Force (IDF).... Psalm 83:9-11
- 4) Palestinian Refugees.... Psalm 83:6
- 5) An Arab League.... Psalm 83:6-8
- 6) An Arab Hatred of Israel.... Psalm 83:3

Zephaniah 2:1-11....Sets the Stage

- 1) Jews return to land of Israel, before the Tribulation in a condition of unbelief...Vs.1-2
- 2) They will conquer Arab Alliance...Vs. 3-4, 8-9
- 3) As a Result...Israel's fortunes are greatly enhanced...Vs. 6-7, 9
- 4) In the process...Allah is greatly reduced as a God...Vs. 11
- 5) These events happen before the "Day of the Lord" arrives...Vs.2

Prerequisites for War of Gog & Magog:

- 1) Israel must be reestablished as a sovereign Jewish Nation.
- 2) Living securely “without walls” [Military secure].
- 3) Be living at peace in the Middle East.
- 4) One of, if not the richest nations on earth.

Ezekiel 38:10-12 tells us that at the time of the advancing Russian-Iranian led coalition, Israel will be “a people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls.” Israel will be a nation at peace in the Middle East.

Here are the two different coalitions:

Psalm 83 Coalition:

Tents of Edom = [decedents of Esau] Palestinian Refugees and Southern Jordanians
Ishmaelites = Saudi Arabians
Moab = Palestinian Refugees and Central Jordanians
Hagrites = Egyptians
Gebal = Northern Lebanese
Ammon = Palestinian Refugees and Northern Jordanians
Amalek = Arabs South of Israel
Philista = Palestinian Refugees and Hamas of Gaza Strip
Inhabitants of Tyre = Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
Assyria = Syrians and perhaps Northern Iraqis included
Children of Lot = Moab and Ammon

* Palestinians is the ethnic label tossed around loosely in modern times to identify three predominantly Arab groups of people:

1. the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip,
2. the Palestinians of the West Bank,
3. and the Palestinian refugees.

These groups inhabit the territories that most closely approach the borders of modern-day Israel. We generally understand that these groups are comprised of a mixture of peoples who descend from various origins, the main ones being...

1. The Ishmaelites....descendants of Ishmael
2. The Edomitesdescendants of Esau.
3. The Moabites & Ammonites....Children of Lot

Gog Magog Coalition:

Magog, Rosh = Russia and the former Soviet republics

Persia = Iran

Cush = Sudan, Ethiopia, and Possibly Eritrea

Put = Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia

Gomer, Meshech, and Tubal = Turkey (and possibly Germany and Austria)

Beth-togarmah = Turkey, Armenia, and the Turkish-speaking people of Asia Minor & Central Asia

Fast Approaching War

This impending war in the Middle East will be a major and devastating war. The Arab confederacy of Psalm 83 will be defeated and destroyed by the army of Israel:

Jeremiah 49:2

But the days are coming, "declares the LORD," when I will sound the battle cry against Rabbah of the Ammonites [Ammon, Jordan]; it will become a mound of ruins, and its surrounding villages will be set on fire. Then Israel will drive out those who drove her out," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 49:8

Turn and flee, hide in deep caves, you who live in Dedan [Saudi Arabia], for I will bring disaster on Esau at the time I punish him [Southern Jordan].

Jeremiah 49:19

"Like a lion [confederacy of Esau] coming up from Jordan's thickets to a rich pastureland [Israel], I will chase Edom from its land in an instant. Who is the chosen one I will appoint for this? Who is like me and who can challenge me? And what shepherd can stand against me?"

These are just three of many scriptures that point to a Middle East war that is fast approaching. Interestingly enough, many Bible scholars apparently do not recognize how soon. Some scholars place this war within the seven-year Tribulation period. This is however not the case.

Key scripture ...which reveals that Esau's judgment will happen before Tribulation or "the day of the Lord."

Obadiah 1:15-16

15 "The day of the LORD [Tribulation] is near for all nations [not yet happened]. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head. 16 Just as you [Esau] drank [experience judgment] on my holy hill [Israel], so all the nations will drink continually; they will drink and drink and be as if they had never been.

Some have lumped this battle in with Armageddon, but as we have already seen this must take place before Armageddon and before Tribulation. There are two judgments that come against the territory of Edom in the latter years. The first by the Jews against the Palestinians and their confederate neighbors, and the second is by Jesus Christ against all the armies assembled in the campaign of Armageddon. If we compare Jeremiah 49:19-22 to the counterpart passage found in Jeremiah 50:43-46, we see depicted in both cases a military effort staged at the "flood plain of Jordan" against the Jews. The first campaign is by the Psalm 83 confederacy led by Edom, and the second is the campaign of Armageddon led by the Antichrist. In the first campaign, the objective is to destroy the Jews. In the second [Armageddon], all the armies of the world will converge with many gathering to fight against the Antichrist. It is at that point that Jesus Christ will return and they will all turn to fight him but will be completely destroyed.

The Psalm 83 War will occur soon, in advance of both the Russian-Iranian invasion attempt and the seventieth week of Daniel [seven year Tribulation period]. During the Tribulation period, the much feared Israeli army will be sidelined for the first three-and-one-half years while a false and temporary peace accord is in place. Then, in the second three-and-

one-half years, this army is defeated and the Jews flee Israel for safety elsewhere as the Antichrist advances in an attempt to destroy them.

What Will Happen in This War

While Psalm 83 [and other already noted books in the Bible] tells us of this coming war, the Book of Obadiah which is a single book made up of 21 passages is a record of Obadiah's vision given to him by God about this coming Middle East War.

Obadiah 1:18

The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; the house of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau. The LORD has spoken.

Israel, represented by the house of Jacob and Joseph reduces Southern Jordan, which is represented by Esau, to rubble. This defeat is thorough leaving no survivors.

Obadiah 1:9

Your warriors, O Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter.

Obadiah 1:9 describes the soldiers of Teman, as having been slaughtered. This emphasizes the severity of Israel's victory over the Palestinian descendants of Edom. Teman's modern day equivalent may be Taiwan, about 3 miles east of Petra. However Teman and the mountains of Esau appear to be representative of the entire region of Edom in this passage.

Ezekiel 25:13-14

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill its men and their animals. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan [Saudi Arabia] they will fall by the sword. I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel [Israeli Defense Force IDF], and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign LORD.

This war extends into Saudi Arabia.

Jeremiah 49:8

Turn and flee, hide in deep caves, you who live in Dedan, for I will bring disaster on Esau at the time I punish him.

This is a warning to the Saudis to disengage from their confederate allegiance with the Palestinians. They are instructed to flee from the slaughter and go back into the depths of Saudi Arabia. The historical location of "Dedan" was in Northwest Saudi Arabia. Ezekiel tells us that the Saudis do not heed Jeremiah's warning.

Ezekiel 25:13

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill its men and their animals. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword.

This reference to Dedan, Arabia offers a connection to the confederacy of Esau/Edom found in Psalm 83:4-8 and Obadiah 1:7. In Psalm 83:6, the Saudis are represented by their ancestor Ishmael and are labeled as the "Ishmaelites." Esau is Edom, according to Genesis 36:1, much like his twin bother Jacob is also called Israel [Genesis 32:28]

The army of Israel advances beyond the southern border of Jordan into northwest Saudi Arabia, represented by Dedan, as far south as the Red Sea.

Jeremiah 49:20-21

Therefore, hear what the LORD has planned against Edom, what he has purposed against those who live in Teman: The young of the flock will be dragged away; he will completely destroy their pasture because of them. At the sound of their fall the earth will tremble; their cry will resound to the Red Sea.

This places the confederate members of Saudi Arabia, Southern Jordan, and Egypt within this war's scope.

The army of Israel will cut off its confederate adversaries and then come down upon the Gaza territory. In continuing their conquest, they plunder the people of the East, which according to its scriptural usage in Genesis 29:1, would be Syria. They then lay their hands on all of Jordan causing its capitol to fall under Jewish sovereignty. Ammon represents northern Jordan, the location of the capitol city of Amman. Isaiah says the people of Ammon shall obey them, depicting the surrender of Jordanian sovereignty.

As this war rages, Isaiah 17 describes what will happen in the north with Syria. The description here is quite amazing.

Please take a few seconds to open up and read Isaiah 17:1-14

Isaiah 17:1-9, is describing one of two events:

1) Syria [who we know has chemical and bio-weapons: <http://www.meforum.org/493/guile-gas-and-germs-syrias-ultimate-weapons>] launches some kind of chemical or biological attack that kills many in northern Israel which is then followed by a nuclear attack from Israel that wipes out Damascus.

OR EITHER

2) Israel fighting on all fronts and facing a Syrian army sweeping through the north utilize a limited version of its Samson Option [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson_Option] to avoid being overrun. This nuclear strike is clearly going to hit Damascus which is just over the Israeli northern border. It could be that Isaiah 17:4-6 is describing the radiation poisoning experienced in the north due to the fallout.

The results [from either event] are clearly spelled out. Damascus, the oldest continually inhabited city on earth, will be instantly and completely destroyed and Syria will be crushed by the IDF [Israeli Defense Force].

Isaiah 17:1,9,14

1 An oracle concerning Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. 9 In that day their strong cities, which they left because of the Israelites, will be like places abandoned to thickets and undergrowth. And all will be desolation.

14 In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us.

From Isaiah 11:14 & Isaiah 17:1 we know that Israel will destroy Damascus and completely take over Syria. Presently, almost every known Middle Eastern terrorist organization has

representation in Damascus. How fitting that the city that is the most adversarial to the nation of Israel will cease to exist.

Both Jeremiah and Isaiah tell us how Egypt, another member of this Arab coalition, will react to the news of what the IDF [Israeli Defense Force] has done to Syria:

Isaiah 19:16-17

16 In that day the Egyptians will be like women. They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the LORD Almighty raises against them. 17 And the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the LORD Almighty is planning against them.

The picture that Isaiah aptly portrays is that of a fragile, unarmed female fighting a skilled male warrior wielding a mighty sword. The woman is freighted as the warrior waves his sword in the air.

Jeremiah 49:23-26

23 Against Damascus. "Hamath and Arpad are shamed, for they have heard bad news. They are fainthearted; there is trouble on the sea; it cannot be quiet. 24 Damascus has grown feeble; she turns to flee, and fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. 25 Why is the city of praise [Jerusalem] not deserted, the city of My joy? 26 Therefore her young men shall fall in her [Damascus] streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day," says the LORD of hosts.

Israel's Borders Expand: The New Middle East

The Bible tells us that as a result of this massive military victory given to Israel from God via the IDF, the face of the Middle East will drastically change. Israel will significantly increase in size. The tiny nation of Israel as we currently know it will soon encompass a major portion of the Middle East. The nations that form this Arab coalition fall [for the most part] within the scope of land from the covenant that God made with Abraham. At the end of this war, Israel's borders will be reset to that of, or very close to, the borders that God established for Israel in is covenant with Abraham. Genesis 15:18

Obadiah 1:19

19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau [Southern Jordan], and the Lowland shall possess Philistia [Gaza Strip]. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria [West Bank]. Benjamin shall possess Gilead [West Bank & Golan Heights].

The Negev will possess Southern Jordan. The lowland of Judah will possess the Gaza Strip and the southern parts of the West Bank. Northern Israel will possess the northern part of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, much of northern Jordan, and southern Syria.

Jeremiah 49:2

Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will cause to be heard an alarm of war In Rabbah of the Ammonites; It shall be a desolate mound, And her villages shall be burned with fire. Then Israel shall take possession of his inheritance," says the LORD.

Much of modern-day Jordan was once part of the inheritance of Israel. The tribes of East Manasseh, Benjamin, Gad, and Reuben once possessed land that is presently under Jordanian sovereignty but this land will soon pass back to its rightful owner.

Isaiah 19:18-19

18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction. 19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border.

Isaiah tells us that the expansion of Israeli sovereignty in the region will even reach into Egypt to some degree. Five Hebrew speaking cities will be established in the land of Egypt. There will be an altar erected to God as well as a pillar erected to God on the border.

Israel will be elevated to a condition of regional superiority due to their decisive victory over the Arab confederacy. As such, they dwell securely in the Middle East [for a time].

What are we to do?.....Matthew 24:32

1. Keep waiting
2. Keep working
3. Keep watching
4. Keep witnessing
5. Above all accept Jesus Christ as Savior!

Resources for message notes:

AreWeLivingInTheLastDays.com...Hal Lindsey & "Psalm 83 – The Missing Prophecy Revealed" by Bill Salus