

PROPHECY



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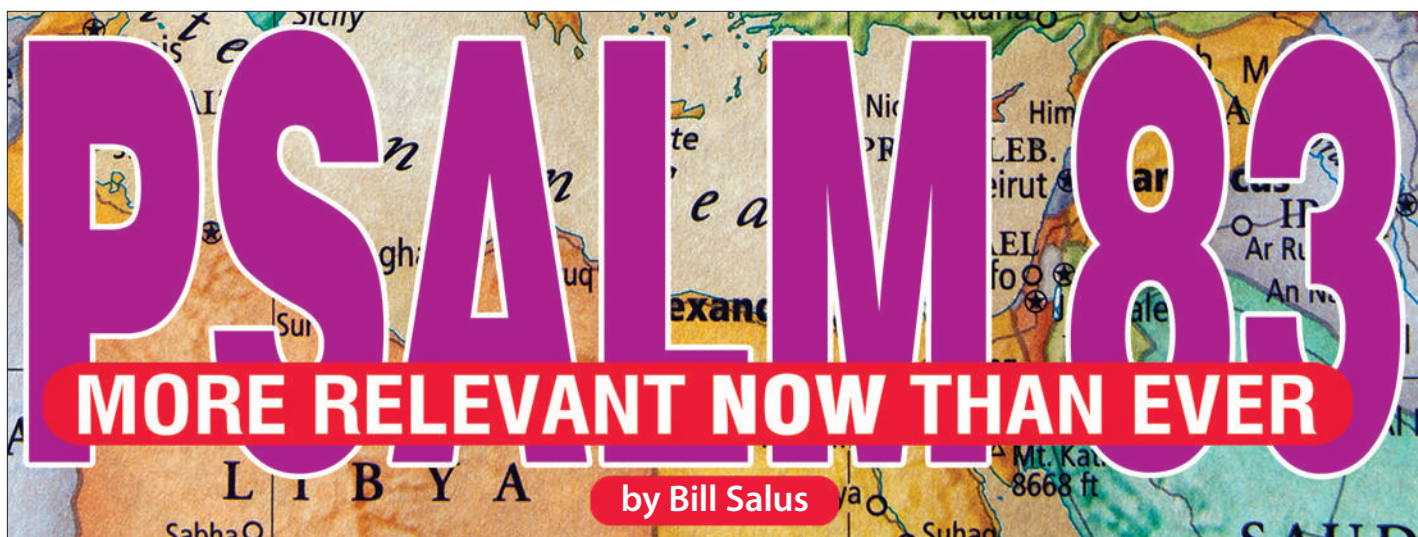
with Bible Archeological Updates

REVENANT NOW THAT MON

PSALM 83

MORE RELEVANT





Psalm 83 speaks about an Arab confederacy that forms for the explicit purposes of destroying Israel and dispossessing the chosen people permanently from their Promised Land. The pertinent verses are:



"Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! For behold,

Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You" (Psalm 83:1-5).

The Arab Participants of Psalm 83

If this is a prophecy to be fulfilled soon, it implies that the confederacy fights for the extirpation of the Jewish state in order to establish another Arab state, which would undoubtedly be called Palestine. This conclusion can be determined in part by analyzing who the confederate

members are today. The Psalmist Asaph lists these peoples in the vocabulary of his time.

"The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot" (Psalm 83:6-8).

This image compares the modern-day equivalents to the ancient populations listed in Psalm 83:6-8. If the terrorist group ISIS exists at the time that Psalm 83 finds fulfillment, they might also be part of this Arab confederacy.

The Timing of Psalm 83

There are diverse opinions among prophecy experts about the Psalm's

timing. Some teach that the prophecy was fulfilled historically in 2 Chronicles 20. This is generally a minority view that is easily refuted by recognizing that only Jordan (Ammon, Moab, and Edom) and maybe a part of Syria were involved in this historic confrontation. It did not include all 10 members of the Psalm 83:6-8 confederacy.

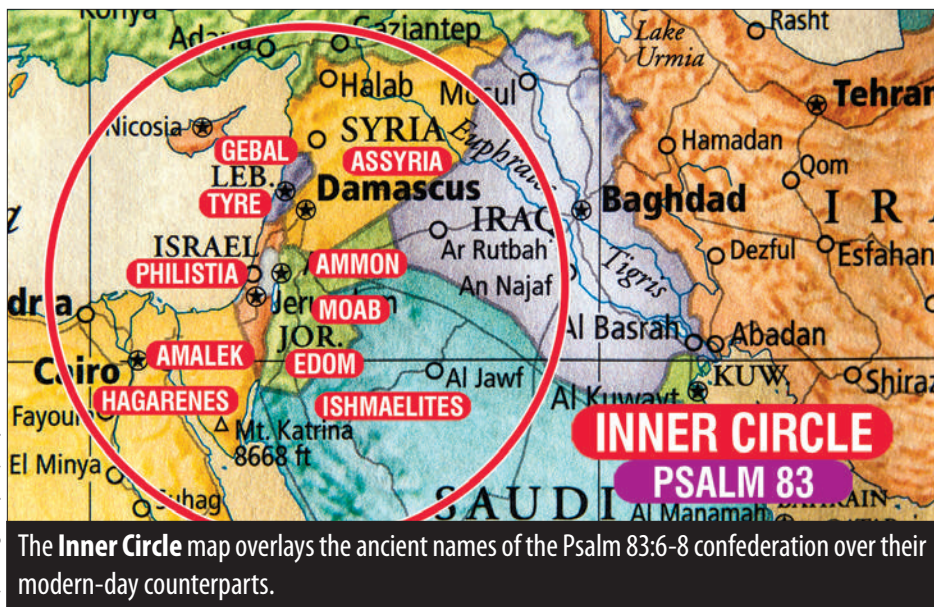
Why Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 are Different Prophecies

Another timing view holds to the thinking that Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38 are the same prophetic event. A few of the problems with this view are listed below.

Different Coalitions

This is one of the most glaring

The PSALM 83 Confederates			
Tents of Edom	▶	Palestinians and Southern Jordanians	
Ishmaelites	▶	Saudia (Ishmael, Father of Araba)	
Moab	▶	Palestinians and Central Jordanians	
Hagarenes	▶	Egyptians (Hagar, Egypt Matriarch)	
Gebal	▶	Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese	
Ammon	▶	Palestinians and Northern Jordanians	
Amalek	▶	Arabs of the Sinai Area	
Philistia	▶	Hamas of the Gaza Strip	
Tyre	▶	Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese	
Assyria	▶	Syrians and Northern Iraqis	



note that neither the IDF nor American military forces assist in the defeat of the Ezekiel 38 invaders.

Was Psalm 83 Fulfilled in the Arab-Israeli War of 1948?

Another timing argument is that Psalm 83 was fulfilled in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The proponents of this view point out that the Inner Circle of nations confederated to destroy Israel at that time. They also suggest that the present peace treaties existing between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Jordan mitigate against the possibility that these two Arab states would join in a future Psalm 83 Arab-Israeli War.

The flaws with this thinking are:

- According to Psalm 83:9-11, the defeat of the Arab confederacy finds a correlation with the former Israeli wars victories described in Judges 4-8. These historical conquests totally ended the oppression of their respective enemies, the Midianites and the Canaanites. This implies that when the Psalm 83 confederates are finally defeated, they will likewise never oppress Israel again. This is not the case today. Several of the Psalm 83 confederates, including Egypt

dissimilarities. Compare the **Inner Circle Psalm 83** and **Outer Ring Ezekiel 38** maps.

Note that the **Inner Circle** is mostly comprised of Arab states and terrorist groups that share common borders with the Jewish state. These ancient civilizations have been Israel's most notorious enemies from time immemorial.

Note that the **Outer Ring** of nations does not:

- Share common borders with Israel
- Include any of the Inner Circle countries or notable terrorist organizations
- Involve any of Israel's historic enemies, apart from Persia at the time of Esther
- Incorporate many Arab states

Different Motives

Another important distinction between these two prophecies concerns the differing motives. The Psalm 83 Inner Circle wants to destroy Israel and take possession of the Promised Land. Psalm 83:12 says, "Let us (the Inner Circle) take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession."

Conversely, the Ezekiel 38 Outer Ring seeks to conquer the Jewish state

to capture its economic prosperity, its plunder and booty. Ezekiel 38:13 asks, "Have you gathered your (Outer Ring) army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?"

Different Defeats

According to Psalm 83:9-11, the Inner Circle is defeated militarily by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). However, Ezekiel 38:18-39:6 describes the supernatural destruction of the Outer Ring via a great earthquake, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. It's interesting to



The **Outer Ring** map superimposes the historic names of the Ezekiel 38:2-6 coalition over their present equivalents. The arrows depict the location of the coalition members.

and Jordan, have warred against Israel in 1967 and 1973. Moreover, Israel is still being oppressed by members of the Inner Circle, like Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, the Palestinians, and more.

- Moreover, the Tents of Edom in Psalm 83:6 partially represent the Palestinian refugees today. These Palestinians have Edomite descendants within their ethnicity. The Tents of Edom only became a reality after the war of 1948. They were—and still are—a casualty of that war. Since they didn't technically exist prior to 1948, and they must be a participant in the Psalm 83 war when it happens, the implication is that the prophecy still awaits its final fulfillment.

Is Psalm 83 a Tribulation Event?

A final timing argument is that the Psalm occurs during the final seven-year tribulation period. This is not likely when you understand what's taking place in Israel during the tribulation period. During the first three-and-one-half years, Israel is living in a pseudo peace, which is accomplished through the false covenant in Daniel 9:27 and Isaiah 28:15,18. They will not likely be fending off the Inner Circle in this peaceful condition.

During the second three-and-one-half years, Israelis are fleeing from the genocidal attempt of the antichrist which, according to Zechariah 13:8, will result in the deaths of two-thirds of the Jews in the land. Even Jesus Christ warned the Jews living inside of Israel to flee from the antichrist during this perilous period in Matthew 24:15-22.

Psalm 83 is an Imminent Event

In my estimation, one nearby

morning, the world will wake to the world-changing Mideast war described in Psalm 83. This Psalm specified that six primary things needed to be in place before the major Middle East battle could begin.

- 1 Israelis (Psalm 83:3)
- 2 The Nation of Israel (Psalm 83:4,12)
- 3 An Israeli Defense Forces; the IDF (Psalm 83:9-11)
- 4 Palestinian Refugees; i.e. the tents of Edom (Psalm 83:6)
- 5 An Arab League (Psalm 83:6-8)
- 6 An Arab Hatred of Israelis (Psalm 83:3)

Presently all six of these prerequisites are in place, making Psalm 83 an imminent event.

- Israelis became a reality when Israel was reborn as a nation on May 14, 1948.
- The Arab hatred of the Israelis was made self-evident in the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973, the Hezbollah-Israel conflict of 2006, and the multiple Hamas-Israel confrontations since 2009. The treaties between Israel and Egypt and Israel and Jordan are paper-thin. It wouldn't take much for these agreements to be discarded. The facts are that most Egyptians and Jordanians are pro-Palestinian and these individuals tend to hate the Israelis.
- As previously stated, the Palestinian refugees only became a tent-dwelling reality in the aftermath of the Israeli war of independence in 1948. The IDF also only became a reality as a result of this war. The 1948 war prompted the formation of the IDF to fight off the Arab aggression. With each subsequent war the IDF became a stronger army in fulfillment of Ezekiel 25:14, 37:10 and Obadiah 1:18. Presently, both preconditions of Psalm 83 exist: the Tents of Edom and the IDF.

- Lastly, the Arab League was established in Cairo on March 22, 1945, before all the conflicts began. The Arab League includes each member identified within the Arab confederacy of Psalm 83.

Psalm 83 is a Prophecy in Process

Much like the rebirth of Israel was a prophecy in process, so is Psalm 83. On May 14, 1948, the world awoke to a Jewish state, but avid Bible prophecy students shouldn't have been surprised at the time. Numerous prophecies, like the ones listed below, came true on that infamous day.

- **Ezekiel 36:22-24** - foretold that the Jews would be in spiritual unbelief at the time. It anticipated that world Jewry at large would be characterized by the same religious indifference that had overtaken their forefathers when the Diaspora began in 70 AD.
- **Ezekiel 37:11-13** - predicted the Jews would come out of a holocaust scenario: "*Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!*" (Ezek. 37:11).
- **Isaiah 11:11** - informed that the Lord would regather the Jews into Israel from the nations a second time. The Bible does not describe a third, fourth, or fifth times alerting that Israel today fulfills this prophecy. (The likely first regathering began around 539 B.C. when the Persians conquered the Babylonians. The second regathering mostly began in 1948, when Israel was reborned as a nation, and it is continuing today.)
- **Ezekiel 38:8** - foretells that the regathering takes place in the "latter years," which is why many eschatologists consider Israel as the super-sign of the end times.

These are just a few of the prophecies that predicted someday the

Jews would be regathered out of the nations of the world back into their ancient homeland of Israel in the end times.

The Restoration of Israel was Also a Prophecy in Process

Just as Psalm 83 is setting up for its fulfillment in stages, the restoration of Israel also took place in observable phases. The process toward prophetic fulfillment of the rebirth of the nation Israel generally began around 1896 when Theodor Herzl published his book *Der Judenstaat* ("Jewish State" in German). He is the father of political Zionism. Herzl recognized that Anti-Semitism was rising throughout the world, and especially in Europe. He believed the only way the Jews could escape mounting world persecution was to have a homeland again.

Here is an interesting quote from his diary issued in 1897: "At Basle, I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. If not in five years, certainly in 50, everyone will know it."

Dying approximately seven years after writing this statement, he didn't realize how prophetic it was. Exactly 50 years later, the United Nations passed resolution 181 in 1947, which called for the establishment of the Jewish state. Christians could have anticipated that Israel was about to become a nation by the start of the Zionist movement.

World War I was the next tip-off that the nation Israel was about to be birthed. With the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, their 400 years of control over the Middle East ended. This prepared the Promised Land of Israel for the return of the Chosen People, the Jews. In the aftermath of the war, Lord Balfour of Britain issued a declaration calling

for the establishment of a Jewish state in 1917. At the time, Israel was appropriated land that would have encompassed modern-day Israel and Jordan. Britain had full license to implement this declaration but failed to do so.

Britain's failure to act in accordance with what appears to have been God's explicit will subjected the Jews to the atrocities of the holocaust, and apparently caused the relatively rapid collapse of the British Empire. At the time, there was a saying that "The Sun Never Sets on the British Empire," but today the same can't be said. Presently, the sun always sets on the British Empire!

During its zenith around 1922 A.D., the British Empire held sway over about 458 million people. This represented about one-fifth of the world's population at the time. The empire's sovereignty extended over more than 33,700,000 km (13,012,000 sq. miles), which was almost a quarter of the Earth's total land area." As its punishment for failing to implement the Balfour Declaration, over the course of the following seven decades, Britain relinquished sovereignty over almost all its colonized territories. Presently, about 65 million people populate the UK and their land holdings are only about 94 million sq. miles.

Britain's demise can likely be attributed to the clause contained in Genesis 12:3 that curses those who curse the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Again, Christians should have recognized after World War I that Israel would soon become reinstated as the Jewish state.

World War II was the final clue to the prophecy onlooker. Due to the grave conditions of the holocaust, this war prepared the Jews for their return to the Promised Land of Israel. As stated above, the UN

General Assembly approved the Jewish State on November 29, 1947. With 33 "yes" votes, 13 "no" votes, and 10 abstentions, the Jewish state was a done deal, and on May 14, 1948, the prophecies predicting the coming of Israel were fulfilled.

Guess what nations were among the 13 that voted "no" to UN resolution 181? They were most of the Psalm 83 nations: Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian refugees hadn't been created at the time to oppose the resolution, and Jordan didn't become an admitted UN member until December 1955. Thus, Jordan's "would-be no" vote was unable to be counted!

Like the prophecies concerning the rebirth of Israel, Psalm 83 appears to also be a prophecy in process. The wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973 are evidence of this. Someday soon it will arrive and shock the unsuspecting world at large. However, for those of us Bible prophecy observers that have been paying close attention to the stage-setting signs, we realize that Psalm 83 has been in process for nearly seven decades and is presently poised to happen!

In conclusion, I would remind Americans that the sun is beginning to set, like it did on the British Empire, on the superpower status of the United States. Over the past several decades, American leadership has been cursing Israelis by coercing their leadership to trade God's Promised Land for Arab peace. This is not biblically endorsed and favors the ultimate agenda of the Psalm 83 confederacy, which is to take over the land of Israel for their possession.

This failed diplomacy is the very thing that Joel 3:2 warns against—dividing God's land! If America persists in its obstinacy, it flirts with the same fate of its British ally. ♦