

“Don’t you hear the uproar of your enemies? Don’t you see that your arrogant enemies are rising up? They devise crafty schemes against your people; they conspire against your precious ones. “Come,” they say, “let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence.” Psalms 83:2-4 NLT

lectio // Psalm 83:1-4

As a local, and most likely, a global leader among the nations, David and his court had a keen awareness of what was going on among their allies and more importantly, their enemies. I believe these national, political issues cannot be ignored in history, nor can they be ignored today. Israel, being the chosen people are a type, a foreshadow of God’s working in areas of justice, righteousness and definitely world affairs. These were not just nations, at war or peace, these were characters that represent a slice of humanity and how they view God as well as their treatment of those in their care. In this, I can see a clear vertical and horizontal picture of the cross. A leader’s ability to see God as creator and sovereign over humanity as well as one’s capacity to reflect that knowledge in the way they see people. Asaph and David’s team knew this. So, the enemies rising is not just a cry for help because another leader is picking on Israel. There is a clear sense that a rabid, rebellious country (leader) is turning against God himself and thus racking up “crimes against humanity.” The nations, the leaders would NEVER be able to completely crush and obliterate even the memory of Israel (although MANY have tried) because God never allowed or will ever allow that to happen. Their threats were never really against Israel anyways, they were always and will always be against God! This is an eternal truth. God will not only protect Israel because of his promise, but also protect the church because he has declared it so. Evil humans have tried and will try to wipe the presence of God off the planet, but this will never happen. No matter what level of evil or amount of global control someone has, God CONTROLS all of it. Even the Anti-Christ himself can try to fool the majority of humankind, and yet still he will not win. I have decided that I will love and serve God no matter what! Not just because God WINS, it’s because he is everything to me and he alone saved me from myself and what I would have become without him.

Dad,

I don’t think I should ever stop telling my story. The story of your grace and power to not only forgive, but to transform my life - redeem my life. Our world stage, our political culture, our level of hate and division may be in complete chaos, but you are at WORK and will accomplish all that’s good, right and just!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root