

The Cursing Psalms

Psalm 83 • January 30th, 2022

83 O God, do not keep silence;
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!

² For behold, your enemies make an uproar;
those who hate you have raised their heads.

³ They lay crafty plans against your people;
they consult together against your treasured
ones.

⁴ They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a
nation; let the name of Israel be remembered
no more!”

⁵ For they conspire with one accord;
against you they make a covenant—

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

⁷ Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

⁸ Asshur also has joined them;
they are the strong arm of the children of
Lot. *Selah*

Q: what should
we do with the
imprecatory
Psalms?

**Appeal for
God to
speak:** v. 1

The cursing
Psalms reveal
an authentic
relationship
with God

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

¹⁰ who were destroyed at En-dor,
who became dung for the ground.

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

¹² who said, “Let us take possession for
ourselves of the pastures of God.”

¹³ O my God, make them like whirling
dust, like chaff before the wind.

¹⁴ As fire consumes the forest,
as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,

¹⁵ so may you pursue them with your
tempest and terrify them with your
hurricane!

¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame,
that they may seek your name, O LORD.

¹⁷ Let them be put to shame and dismayed
forever; let them perish in disgrace,

¹⁸ that they may know that you alone,
whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.

**Appeal for God
to act:**

Like God has in
the past: v. 9-12

Like God does in
the natural world:
v. 13-15

The cursing
Psalms remind us
where to look for
justice and rescue

**Ultimate
result:**

v. 16-18

The cursing
Psalms leave the

final word to God.

Reasons why God should listen:

V. 2-4

V. 5-8

The cursing Psalms reveal the reality of evil.

For followers of Jesus:

The cursing Psalms help us see the glory of the cross.

(Romans 5:6-11)