PSALM

83

LXXXIII

Imprecatory Lament Turning

Psalms of Asaph · Book III · Psalms That Call for Justice

"A song. A Psalm by Asaph."

PICTURE WORD

Tumbleweed

IN ONE SENTENCE

ations conspire to wipe out Israel, so the psalmist asks God to scatter them like tumbleweed, that all know the Most High.

Remember it: Eighty-three: the plotting nations roll away like tumbleweed before the Most High.

MEMORY VERSE

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

Psalm 83:18 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

כַּגַּלְגַּל

"tumbleweed" · verse 13

In the Psalms: twice, in 2 psalms

גַּלְגַּל comes from a root meaning to roll, and it can mean a wheel or a whirling thing. Here it pictures a dry plant torn loose and rolled away by the wind. Enemies who seemed fixed and fearsome become as light as tumbleweed before God's storm.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–4	God, don't stay silent; enemies plot to erase Israel.
5–8	A list of nations allied together against God.
9–12	Do to them as you did to Midian and Sisera.
13–18	Scatter them like tumbleweed so all know the Most High.

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 83 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/83**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Justice on the Wicked · Enemies & Betrayal · Israel's Story

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Nations _____ to wipe out Israel, so the psalmist asks God to scatter them like _____, that all know the _____ High.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What do the enemies want to happen to Israel's name?

- (A) That it be honored
- (B) That it be remembered no more
- (C) That it be changed
- (D) That it be written in Babylon

2. What does the psalmist ask God to make the enemies like?

- (A) Stones in a wall
- (B) Sheep without a shepherd
- (C) Tumbleweed and chaff before the wind
- (D) Grass on the rooftops

3. What is the goal stated in verse 18?

- (A) That they know the LORD alone is Most High over all the earth
- (B) That Israel rules them
- (C) That they pay tribute
- (D) That their land is empty

TALK IT OVER

1. What does verse 16 hope will happen when the enemies are confused and ashamed?

2. How does this psalm show that God, not his people, is the one who handles enemies?

3. How can we pray honestly about people who oppose God without seeking personal revenge?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 83 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I can say verse 18 by heart
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: conspire · tumbleweed · Most · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 4) · 2. C (v. 13) · 3. A (v. 18)