

Psalms 83:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:

Analysis

For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee. The enemies' conspiracy achieves unified agreement—rare among competing nations. Yachdav nisabu lev echad (יחדנו נשבעו לב אחד), "together they have consulted with one heart") emphasizes remarkable unity. The phrase lev echad ("one heart") suggests unanimous purpose and coordinated strategy. Nations that normally compete now collaborate with singular focus: destroying Israel.

They are confederate against thee (brit yikhrotu aleikha, בְּרִית יִכְהַרְטוּ עֲלֵיכָה) uses covenant language—karat brit (כָּרַת בְּרִית, "to cut covenant") is the standard Hebrew idiom for making formal treaties. These enemies formalize their alliance, binding themselves by oath to joint action. The preposition aleikha ("against You") directs this covenant not merely against Israel but against God Himself. They make covenant to break God's covenant—formal agreement to oppose the Almighty.

This perverse unity ironically demonstrates human capacity for cooperation while highlighting the darkness of that cooperation's purpose. Humanity can achieve remarkable coordination, but often unites for evil rather than good. Acts 4:27-28 describes similar conspiracy: "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together." Yet God's purposes prevail despite—even through—coordinated human opposition.

Historical Context

Ancient coalitions were unstable—competing kingdoms had conflicting interests, mutual suspicions, and rival ambitions. That ten distinct nations (vv. 6-8) could unite in common purpose required extraordinary circumstances and mutual hatred for Israel. This confederacy's fragility is seen in Judges 7:22 when Gideon's enemies turned on each other, or 2 Chronicles 20:23 when Moab and Ammon's coalition self-destructed. Human alliances against God's purposes may appear formidable but contain seeds of their own destruction. History repeatedly demonstrates that godless coalitions fracture under pressure—only covenants made under God's authority have lasting stability (Genesis 21:22-32, Joshua 9:15).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it reveal about fallen humanity that people can unite in opposition to God with "one heart" more easily than uniting in obedience to Him?
2. How does recognizing that enemies make covenant "against thee" (God) rather than merely against believers affect your understanding of spiritual conflict?
3. What biblical examples show God's purposes prevailing despite coordinated human opposition, and what encouragement do these provide?

Interlinear Text

בָּרְיתָם כְּלָבָן כְּלָבָן
H3588 For they have consulted with one consent together H5921 confederate
H3289 H3820 H3162 H1285

יכְּרֹתָה:

they are

H3772

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 2:2 (Parallel theme): The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Revelation 19:19 (Parallel theme): And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Revelation 17:13 (Parallel theme): These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

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