

**SUDDEN HOPE V**  
**A MIDIAN SUDDENLY**  
**VICTORY OF THE ENEMIES OF BARRENNESS**

*<sup>26</sup> The LORD Almighty will lash them with a whip, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb; ...*

Isaiah 10:26

*<sup>7</sup> I saw the tents of Cushan in distress, the dwellings of Midian in anguish.*

Habakkuk 3:7

*<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.*

Isaiah 9:4

*<sup>25</sup> They also captured two of the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan.*

Judges 7:25

*<sup>11</sup> Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,*

Psalm 83:11

I. The demonic spirits behind extended seasons of barrenness are being exposed and dethroned.

A. God's silence is breaking. (Psalm 83:1-4)

<sup>1</sup> *A song. A psalm of Asaph. O God, do not remain silent; do not turn a deaf ear, do not stand aloof, O God.* <sup>2</sup> *See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads.* <sup>3</sup> *With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.* <sup>4</sup> *“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more.”*

\* In Egyptian bondage for hundreds of years; where was God?

\*\* He was working out his plan, (Genesis 15:13-16) and when the time was perfect, he responded. (Exodus 2:24,25)

<sup>24</sup> *God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.* <sup>25</sup> *So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.*

B. God should be the center of our concern. (Psalm 83:2-5)

<sup>2</sup> *See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads.* <sup>3</sup> *With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.* <sup>4</sup> *“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more.”* <sup>5</sup> *With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you--*

C. Many spiritual foes swarm and unite to annihilate God's work and people. (Psalm 83:6-8)

<sup>6</sup> *the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites,* <sup>7</sup> *Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the*

*people of Tyre.* <sup>8</sup> *Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot's descendants.*

1. Edomites are offspring of Esau.
2. Ishmaelites, like Edomites, were hostile but estranged family members.
3. The Hagrites, to the east of Israel, were thorns to the tribes of Manasseh and Gad.
4. Gebel? Near Beirut in Lebanon.
5. The Ammonites, like the Moabites, were related through Lot.
6. The Amalekites, from Esau, were a constant enemy to Israel.
7. Philistia and Tyre were the ancient Gaza Strip in Lebanon.
8. Assyria would one day conquer the 10 northern tribes of Israel.

## II. The heads of God's enemies are being crushed. / The Midianites and Sisera

A. In Judges 7-8, the Midianites are utterly vanquished by God's unique strategy.

- \* The heads of and lives of Gideon's enemies are given to him as an ultimate trophy of victory and triumph. (Judges 7:25)

*<sup>25</sup> They also captured two of the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued the*

*Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan.*

- B. The head of Sisera is the sign of ultimate victory. The elements themselves fought against an invincible army. Sisera is an example of right now! (Judges 4:3,17)

*<sup>3</sup> Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help. ... <sup>17</sup> Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.*

- C. The head of Goliath is the age-old symbol of Christ's absolute victory. (I Samuel 17:51,54)

*<sup>51</sup> David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ... <sup>54</sup> David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.*