

Psalms Chapter 82 - Review

In part 1 we learned that this was another Psalm of Asaph and the subject/title of this chapter was ‘*God in the Sanctuary*’ because it taught us *what He does* as the *Supreme* ruler over **all** that’s in heaven *and* on earth. And that’s why the first verse said that God stands (He remains firmly on His throne, forevermore) in the congregation of the mighty (all leaders, in heaven and on earth) and judges amongst the ‘gods’ (judges and rulers on earth *and* in heaven). And we also learned how the words, translated in the first verse as ‘God’ and ‘gods’, are the same word ‘*Elohiym*’ (#430) - and this word can be used either to refer to the *Supreme* God (Yehovah) – who is the Creator of heaven and earth and all things therein – but can also refer to any deity (other ‘gods’) or even to earthly *magistrates*, which means judges or rulers. And we also ‘searched the Scriptures’ (2 Tim 2:15) to find other Scriptures that proved the word ‘*Elohiym*’ (#430) has been used to refer to earthly *judges* or even *rulers* (such as Moses). And understanding this, not only helped us to understand the first verse in this great Psalm, but other verses too.

In part 2 we saw God begin to speak to the unjust (evil) judges, who perverted judgment by accepting bribes that caused the rich criminals to be rewarded while punishing the innocent who were too poor to defend themselves. And that’s why He specifically ordered them to defend the poor and fatherless and do justice to the afflicted and needy - which are the people in society who are unable to defend themselves. And He also demanded that the judges deliver (*save*) the poor and needy (those who are defenseless and thus oppressed) out of the hand of the wicked *by* their judicial judgments. Since all people are God’s children (Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11), He gets *really* angry when they are oppressed. And those who are unable to defend themselves (either from lack of money, power and/or influence in society) are *always* the ones oppressed. That’s why He has ordained the institution of government; to *protect* the innocent, poor and needy from those who are wicked and more powerful (and richer) than they are. But, when the government itself becomes corrupted, this process (protecting the poor and powerless from the rich and powerful) is overturned - and God gets *very* angry at that. Therefore, He *will* intervene and punish those who are *supposed* to be *protecting* His children, but are *not* doing so.

And thankfully, we who believe in Jesus Christ, can ask God for help (in Jesus’ name) because Jesus Christ is our eternal Advocate (our intercessor) Who not only died to atone for our sins, but also to *protect us from all evil* (John 17:15, 2 Thess 3:3). So, while we might not get justice on earth, our Heavenly Father will send the Holy Spirit to give us peace of mind that will help us get through whatever hard times that may come. And, as Jesus said in Matt 5:10-12, when we’re persecuted for doing *what’s right*, we will be *richly* rewarded ‘in heaven’, which means either when we die, or when Jesus Christ returns (whichever comes first). And that’s why being content with what we have, and continuing to strive to do what’s right (obey God’s Word, from the heart), is truly *great gain* (1 Tim 6:6). For, while many sell their eternal life away for fleshly riches, those who *sincerely* believe, trust and obey Jesus Christ are wise enough to live within

our means (not lusting for great riches, power or prestige) and thus, *have eternal life waiting for us* (Matt 16:26-27).

In part 3 we learned how *spiritually* blind the judges in Israel were. Though He admonished them for their wickedness, and commanded them to judge righteously, they still did not understand the truth when they heard it; and thus, they continued to walk on in darkness, which means they continued on doing the same wicked things as always – harming the poor, the needy and the righteous through their unjust (evil) judgments. And what made them spiritually blind was that they hardened their heart *to the truth* (Ezek 12:2). They loved thinking with their carnal mind and didn't care about how much damage they were doing to others; nor how their crookedness in judging was undermining the very foundations of society (law and order). Yet those who think with their carnal mind (Rom 8:6) don't understand this. And so, they continued to live life *blind to reality* (the *truth*) and *will* suffer the consequences of that (eventually). And when Jesus Christ returns, all the wicked will have quite a socking 'wake up call' to *the truth*. For Jesus *will* pour out God's vengeance upon *all* the wicked ones when He returns. *No one* will get away with any unrepentant sins when He takes over the earth. And *that fact* is what should keep us being *faithful* servants to Jesus Christ *all the rest of our life*.

In part 4 we learned that, while God commissioned flesh men to be 'gods' (judges) they are *still His children*. So, just because He ordained the office of a judge ('god') *that didn't make them anything special*. They are *still* His children and thus, **they are still under HIS Laws**. And the implication of this is, of course, that they'd better 'shape up' or... *But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes*, as He then said in verse 7. So again, while He has commissioned the office of a judge, that doesn't make them 'above the law'. While they have a right to judge the people, they *don't* have a right to *mis-judge* (pervert judgment) *the people*. Again, their powerful position doesn't make them 'special' (i.e. above the law). They have **no** right to 'lord over' the people *because* they are His children as well. And He has ordained the office of a judge (yea, the very institution of the government, including *all* offices within it) for *the benefit of His children*. The purpose is to keep those who are stronger (more powerful in any sense) *from harming* the weaker ones (in any sense). So, even though these judges were enjoying their powerful position, they would *still* die because they are but mere men, for they are in a *flesh* body. So, while most all governments have become corrupted – and those in the government trust in their powerful positions, and wealth, to keep them safe from any attempt to punish them for their vile deeds – we are all going to be judged by Jesus Christ when He returns. God therefore warned them that they would not only *die*, but also 'fall' like 'one of the princes'. This could have referred to the Num 16 rebellion where 250 princes of Israel were literally consumed (burnt up) by fire from the Lord (YHVH). Or, it could also refer to how Satan himself was deposed (fell from God's grace) and *lost his powerful position* of governor of the earth in the first earth age. And Satan's ultimate end has already been decided, for he will be spiritually consumed by fire in the 'lake of fire' after the Millennium (Rev 20, Ezek 28).

So, God gave quite a stern admonition to the wicked judges, warning to clean up their act or face dire consequences. And then the chapter ended by the Psalmist pleading for God Himself to rise up and judge the earth, even *all* the nations. And that *will* indeed happen at Jesus Christ's *Second* Advent. And truly, that's the *only* way justice will ever prevail *perfectly* on the earth. For while all earthly judges, rulers and governments eventually become corrupted, Jesus Christ was *never*, and will *never* be, corrupted. And He's putting together a *righteous* government (the Body of Christ) that *will* rule *righteously* with Him when He returns. The question is, will you be a part of it? How you live your life here on earth is what determines that. So, it's vital we work hard to *sincerely* put off our 'old man' *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and *not serve sin any longer* (Rom 6:6). And we do this by *renewing in the spirit of our mind* (Eph 4:23) *through studying God's Word* (Col 3:10) so the Holy Spirit can help us to put on the 'new man', *which is created in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). Because truly, ***the only good 'thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit...***

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

*3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.***

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

*5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for **these words are true and faithful.***

*6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.***

*7 **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.***

*8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.***

Rev 21:1-8

AMEN.