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Psalm 82

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 82.

Topics.

- How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
- Give justice to the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted.
- You are gods, sons of the Most High, but, like men you shall die.
- Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all nations.
- The return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK THREE (PSALM 73-89)

PSALM 82:1

A Psalm of Asaph.

God has Taken His Place in the Midst of the gods He Holds Judgment.

- **Psalm 82:1:** God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.

This means that God is amongst the priesthood and those who are in powerful positions of religious authority. They are called gods because they have the power to judge God's people. The picture is of the religious leaders of Israel sitting in council and judging the people of Israel. The expression, "In the midst of the gods he holds judgment," obviously does not mean that God sits amongst a council of gods and determines judgment since there is only one God. It means that God is amongst those who have been anointed and given the power and authority to judge the people of Israel and sees all they do and will judge them according to their judgment of others. Meaning if they judge honestly and without bias and favour God will exalt and favour them, but should they judge dishonestly and pervert justice for their own gain, and advantage God will judge them accordingly.

PSALM 82:2

How long will You Judge Unjustly and Show the Wicked Partiality?

- **Psalm 82:2:** How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*

In the context of this Psalm the chief priests and the powerful religious leaders of Israel are perverting justice and favouring those that are actually at fault. It is almost certain they are favouring the corrupt rich who are bribing them or giving them gifts to win their favour and by doing so

cheating the innocent poor, helpless and needy out of what was rightfully theirs. Asaph is rebuking them and telling them that God judges amongst them, but they are acting in the most wicked way before the LORD by ignoring the needs of the poor, the needy and the weak and the rights of the afflicted and the destitute and instead of rescuing the weak and delivering the needy from the power of the selfish, greedy and dishonest rich they are favouring the wicked for their own gain and advantage.

PSALM 82:3-5

Give Justice to the Fatherless; Maintain the Right of the Afflicted.

- **Psalm 82:3-5:** Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. ⁴Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." ⁵They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Asaph warns the chief priests, the priesthood and those who are in religious positions of authority not to think they are so important that they are exempt from God's judgment.

All the foundations of the earth are shaken: (v5) in this context means the chief priests, the priesthood and those who are in religious positions of authority are wicked, they have no knowledge nor understanding of God's justice or His ways, but walk around in darkness, yet their pride is so high they see themselves as exalted men who are superior to others.

PSALM 82:6-7

You are Gods, Sons of the Most High, But, like Men you shall Die.

- **Psalm 82:6-7:** I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; ⁷nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."

Asaph reflects back to the beginning of his conversation when he said men who have been anointed to judge the people of Israel are as gods. He now reinforces this saying that all who have been anointed and given the honour and privilege and authority to judge God's people should keep in mind they are sons of the Most High and as such are called to judge righteously and not with bias and favour toward those who can benefit them in some way and to remember that though they maybe exalted as princes they will die like men, meaning like men who will not rise again to eternal life and everlasting happiness. This Psalm teaches us that it does not matter how great a Christian's gift or ministry is or how beautiful the church building appears, or whether there are thousands in the congregation and it is a global success if the leader and the heads of that ministry do not show honest justice to all, especially the poor and needy God will not show them favour at judgment.

PSALM 82:8

Arise, O God, Judge the Earth; for You shall Inherit all Nations.

- **Psalm 82:8:** Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

Looking upon such gross wickedness amongst those who have been given the honour and privilege of serving God Asaph prays God would arise and judge the earth. This carries the idea that God is not judging the earth and is indifferent to the wickedness of mankind, especially the wickedness of His own people. But it is not that God is indifferent, but that He is longsuffering giving mankind a space of time to repent and turn from their wickedness. God is love He does not desire that any should perish, but all would be saved, but He is also a God of justice and love does not cancel

out justice, but it does show grace and mercy in the hope the guilty would change their wicked ways. It could be said that we who are living on the other side of Christ's death and resurrection are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace.

For you shall inherit all the nations: means that God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ will inherit all nations when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
