

PSALM 82

The Rulers of a Tottering World on Trial

PSALM 82 - INTRODUCTION

Psalms Overview

1491 BC

← 150 Hebrew Poems →

454 BC

Exodus
from
Egypt



Moses

**The Relational
History between
God and Israel**

Return
from
Exile



Ezra

PSALM 82 - INTRODUCTION

Psalms Overview

“In general, Books I and II lay out the foundation of God’s program in the Davidic monarchy, Book III reflects the failure of the monarchy and was shaped with the exile in mind, and Books IV and V present the restoration and the hope for the future with the LORD as king.”

Allen Ross, A Commentary on the Psalms

PSALM 82 - INTRODUCTION

Psalms Overview

Book 1

Psalms
1-42

Book 2

Psalms
43-72

Book 3

Psalms
73-89

Book 4

Psalms
90-106

Book 5

Psalms
107-150

**Foundation
Of
Davidic
Monarchy**

**Failure
Of
Davidic
Monarchy**

**Future Messianic Hope
Of
Restored
Davidic Monarchy**

Book 3: Additional Characteristics

- 1. Refer to the History of Israel.**
- 2. Corporate rather than Individual.**
- 3. First National Confession of Sin.**
- 4. God is portrayed using Shepherd imagery.**

PSALM 82 - INTRODUCTION

2 Sam. 7:11,14

Vs. 11: “...I will give you **rest** from all your enemies...”

Vs. 14: “...I will correct him with the **rod** of men...”

PSALM 82 – COURT ASSEMBLED

Verse 1

Literal: “Elohim is standing in the congregation of El; He will judge in the midst of the Elohim.”

NASB: “God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers.”

NKJV: “God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.”

ESV: “God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.”

PSALM 82 – COURT ASSEMBLED

Verse 1

Two Matters Concerning Identity

- 1.** The Assembly Itself
- 2.** Their Actual Identity

PSALM 82 – COURT ASSEMBLED

Verse 1

1. The Assembly Itself

Option 1

One Location



The Same Place



Every Court/Place of Rule

Option 2

Something in Common



The Same Class



Every Position of Authority

PSALM 82 – COURT ASSEMBLED

Verse 1

1. The Assembly Itself

Option 2:

Psalm 26:5 “assembly of evildoers” → all the evildoers

Prov. 21:16 “assembly of the dead” → all the dead

Psalm 82:1 “assembly the Mighty” → all Authority to Rule

PSALM 82 – COURT ASSEMBLED

Verse 1

2. Their Actual Identity

Option 1

“Elohim” refers to:



Human Beings

Option 2

“Elohim” refers to:



Angelic Beings

PSALM 82 – INDICTMENT GIVEN

Verse 2

Two Charges

1. Judging Unjustly

Perverting justice by favoring those doing evil.

PSALM 82 – INDICTMENT GIVEN

Verse 2

Two Charges

2. Showing Partiality

Regarding the PERSON
rather than the TRUTH.

PSALM 82 – INDICTMENT GIVEN

Verse 2

Deut. 16:19

"You shall not **distort justice**; you shall not **be partial**, and you shall not **take a bribe**, for a bribe **blinds the eyes** of the wise and **perverts the words** of the righteous." (NASB)

PSALM 82 – JUST REQUIREMENTS

Verses 3 and 4

Four Commands

- 1. Vindicate → The weak and fatherless**
- 2. Do Justice to → The afflicted and destitute**
- 3. Rescue → The weak and needy**
- 4. Deliver → Them (the weak and needy)**

PSALM 82 – JUST REQUIREMENTS

Verses 3 and 4

Four Commands

Weak
Fatherless



No one to
defend them!



Weak



Afflicted
Destitute



No means to
defend them!



Needy

Those without
Persons or
Provisions to
defend them!

PSALM 82 – INSTABILITY OF INJUSTICE

Verse 5

Who are “They”

- 1. The People being Misgoverned**
- 2. The Judges who are Misgoverning**

PSALM 82 – INSTABILITY OF INJUSTICE

Verse 5

The Shaken Foundations

- Personal Security
- Social Comfort
- Commercial Prosperity
- National Peace
- National Security
- Religious Liberty

PSALM 82 – INSTABILITY OF INJUSTICE

Verse 5

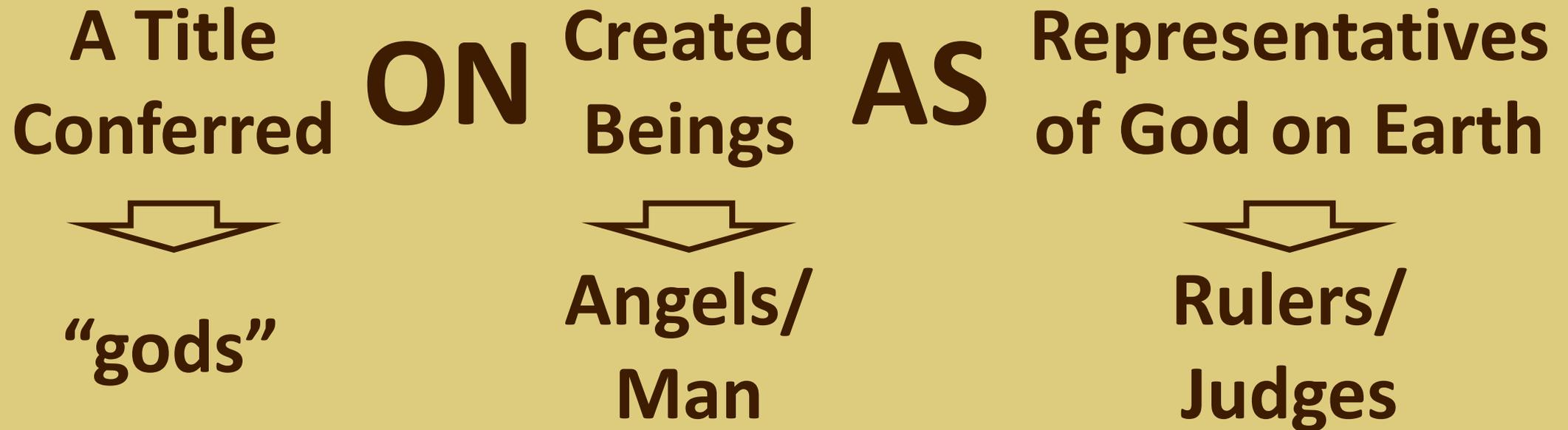
“The general observation is that **judicial decisions that rule **against godliness** and **righteousness** signal **the beginning of the end for a society.**”**

Allen Ross, A Commentary on the Psalms

PSALM 82 – SENTENCE PRONOUNCED

Verses 6 and 7

“Elohim” and “sons of the Most High”



PSALM 82 – SENTENCE PRONOUNCED

Verses 6 and 7

“Elohim” and “sons of the Most High”

The Representative Activities of God

- Judge (Right and Wrong)
- Rule (Lead and Govern)
- Pass Sentences (Life and Death)

PSALM 82 – SENTENCE PRONOUNCED

Verses 6 and 7

“Elohim” and “sons of the Most High”

Deut. 1:17

'You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, **for the judgment is God's.** (NASB)

Their VERDICT is God's VERDICT!

PSALM 82 – COURT ADJOURNED

Verse 8

The Anticipation of the Incarnation

INCARNATION

The **Condescension**
of God



God becoming Man

NOT

DEIFICATION

The **Improvement**
of Man



Man becoming God

PSALM 82 – COURT ADJOURNED

Verse 8

The Anticipation of the Incarnation

“The fact that it was possible for men so to **represent God** as to be called gods or divine was a **foreshadowing of the Incarnation.**”

A.F. Kirkpatrick, *The Book of Psalms*

PSALM 82 - CONCLUSION

Personal Application

This Psalm:

- 1. Points us to the Providence of God.**
- 2. Invites us to Pray for our Leaders.**
- 3. Exhorts us to Prepare for Christ's Coming.**