

Psalm 82 is a Psalm that should be carefully studied by everyone, **especially by those who are in some leadership position where they are responsible to pass judgment on others.**

This passage should be studied by all judges and judicial leaders. In fact, Harry Bultema said that every judge in the land ought to daily read this Psalm. This Psalm should be studied by lawyers, coaches, parents. This Psalm should be studied by management people, political leaders and, most assuredly, it should be studied by leaders and people in the church.

This is a very serious Psalm because it assumes that people who make right judgments are very rare. This Psalm is comprised of eight verses, but they are powerful and important verses. The primary point of the Psalm is this:

WHEN JUDGMENTS MUST BE MADE THEY SHOULD BE IMPARTIAL AND JUST, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE JUDGMENTS PERTAIN TO GOD’S PEOPLE; AND THE ONE WHO IS MAKING THE JUDGMENT NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE WHO ARE MAKING THE JUDGMENT WILL THEMSELVES BE JUDGED BY GOD.

We may observe that this is a Psalm of Asaph. Asaph himself was a leader in worship. As a leader there would have been times when he himself would have been involved in making judgments. So as he wrote this Psalm, he probably thought very carefully about what he was writing.

There is absolutely no doubt that judgments must be made in the context of life. A right judgment and a just judgment is of God. Parents must make judgments concerning their children. Teachers must make judgments concerning their students. Coaches must make judgments concerning their players. Management must make judgments concerning their employees. Judges must make judgments in a variety of legal situations. What all should realize is that God monitors judgments and He expects that judgments will be impartial and fair. He will hold the one making the judgment responsible, so wise is the person who understand this point prior to making judgments.

Now there are five main parts to this Psalm:

PART #1 – God will judge all human judges and their judgments. **82:1**

The name for God in this verse is “Elohim,” which is the plural noun for God. **This particular name God is plural but you will notice that third person singular verbs are used.** The Hebrew reads God “He takes His stand” and God “He judges.” The text does not read “they take their stand” or “they judge.” What this shows us is that there is a Trinity and the entire Trinity is involved in this judgment. God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit are three distinct Persons yet they are One God and all three will be involved in judgment.

Now **verse 1** and **verse 6** are favorite verses of the Mormons. **Verse 1** in Hebrew literally reads “God gives judgment in/among gods” and **verse 6** literally reads “you are gods.” Mormons take these two verses and twist them to help build their devilish doctrine that says we may all become gods. This of course is pure nonsense and heresy and if the Mormons actually knew anything about the original languages, they would see the insanity of their interpretation.

First, God does not say here one may become a god. Both **verse 1** and **verse 6** indicate that the ones being addressed already held this position right then. **It is clear when we carefully study the Bible that judgments were to be made in the presence of God and the one who was making the judgment was, in fact, acting in behalf of God (Ex. 21:6; 22:28).**

Second, the context here is in regard to those God appointed to make judgments over others. A position of leadership is an entrustment from God and when one makes a judgment, he is functioning as a leader appointed by God and is actually functioning in a god-like capacity—Romans 13:3-4.

Third, in the Septuagint, which is the Greek Translation of the O.T. Hebrew text, which is often cited by Jesus Christ when He was here on earth, **there is an article with the noun God in verse 1 who takes His stand; but there is no article with either uses of the noun “gods.”**

This is very important because what this means is that these verses are not saying these people were “the God,” they are saying that these judges are functioning in the character and quality of God when they are making their judgments. In other words, they are representing God when they make judgments concerning people. Whenever a person makes a judgment about sin, self or society, it is a godly thing to do.

Wise are the people who realize the serious weight and responsibility to make true judgments.

PART #2 – God demands that judgments be just and impartial. 82:2-4

There are many passages that reinforce this point: Exodus 23:2-3, 6, 7, 8; Leviticus 19:15-18, 35-36; Deuteronomy 16:18-20.

Now what happens so many times in this world is that partiality is shown to those who are wrong and those who do the wrong. Often times, partiality is shown to the “wicked” people (**v. 2**).

Selah—stop and think that over.

For example, someone invents a lie and spreads a lie and people believe the lie and they must make some judgment as to whether to follow a liar or one who is factually true. God expects us to make judgment calls that are true and right.

Now in **verses 3-4** there is a list of four classes of people who tend to get shortchanged when it comes to impartial judgment:

Class #1 - Those who are weak as opposed to those who are strong. **82:3a**

Class #2 - Those who are fatherless as opposed to those who are from good families. **82:3b**

Class #3 - Those who are afflicted as opposed to those who aren't afflicted. **82:3c**

Class #4 - Those who are needy as opposed to those who aren't needy. **82:3d**

Typically speaking, the weak and the needy do not get a fair shake. If it comes down to a judgment call concerning them or some wealthy, famous, powerful and prestigious person, they will lose.

I have heard of this happening often in the world of athletics. I have known of some coaches who played the children of the powerful people in the school even though the team was losing. He would not play kids based on objective ability, because had he done that, some of the children of the powerful people would not be in the game.

I know of a youth director who played favorites. He catered to the young people of those families that had money and power. He would take them to lunch but not some of the others. Selah—stop and think about this.

PART #3 – God expects judges to realize their own lack. **82:5**

Apart from God, judgment will be colored and the judges do not even see this or sense it. Apart from God, judges are in a dark fog. Judges in and of themselves do not know how to judge properly and they are walking in darkness. There are two key principles involved in making proper judgments:

Principle #1 - Know what is right.

Principle #2 - Do what is right.

Now most people try to make judgments on their own and they are fools. They do not understand God's Word or will and even if they do they will not admit it and they will not submit to what is right.

PART #4 – God expects all to acknowledge their position. **82:6-7**

No matter how important or powerful the leader or the judge may be, he is still just a man and he will die as a man and he will give an account to God.

One may be the President or Prime Minister of a country or the head of a corporation. One may be some famous entrepreneur; the truth is he is just a man and he will die like a man and he will give an account to God.

PART #5 – God expects all to know that God will judge all. **82:8**

Notice there will come a judgment against “all the nations.” God’s justice will come one day against all the nations.

PRACTICAL LESSONS:

- 1. Before we make any judgment, we need to ask God to lead us and guide us so we clearly see all the facts.**
- 2. We must realize that every responsible position that we have is an entrustment from God and we are accountable to God.**
- 3. We must realize that God will judge each of us justly and impartially.**