

*“A Challenge to the Corrupt” Psalm 82*

Psalm 82 (NKJV)

A Psalm of Asaph.

<sup>1</sup> God stands in the congregation of the mighty;  
He judges among the gods.

<sup>2</sup> How long will you judge unjustly,  
And show partiality to the wicked?

Selah

<sup>3</sup> Defend the poor and fatherless;  
Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

<sup>4</sup> Deliver the poor and needy;  
Free *them* from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> They do not know, nor do they understand;  
They walk about in darkness;  
All the foundations of the earth are unstable.

<sup>6</sup> I said, “You *are* gods,  
And all of you *are* children of the Most High.

<sup>7</sup> But you shall die like men,  
And fall like one of the princes.”

<sup>8</sup> Arise, O God, judge the earth;  
For You shall inherit all nations.

*In this Psalm, Asaph issues a challenge to the corrupt rulers, “gods”, politicians,  
and judges of his day! He does not challenge any of them by name! They  
(themselves) knew who they were! God knew who they were!*

*No names given also means this Psalm applies to EVERY Corrupt Politician, even  
today’s!*

*I am not preaching to such in person, but God is able to carry the message!*

*Additionally, God’s people should know, politician or not, God RULES!*

Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV) ***Nebuchadnezzar Praises God***

<sup>34</sup> And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,  
And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;  
He does according to His will in the army of heaven  
And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.  
No one can restrain His hand  
Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

*I. God stands among them -*

**<sup>1</sup> God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods. Psalm 82:1**

*1. This does not mean He is on their side –  
They rule so it may seem God is with them. They have riches and power so it may seem God has blessed them. They have followers, even fans, meaning people who admire and praise them. God stands among them, but here it says He judges among them!*

*2. He judged Belshazzar king of Babylon –*

*A. Belshazzar was a king and celebrated with a GREAT FEAST -*

**<sup>5</sup> Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. Daniel 5:1 (NKJV)**

*B. As he celebrated, his celebration showed he despised the Living and True God –*

**<sup>2</sup> While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his**

lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.

**Daniel 5:2–4 (NKJV)**

*C. Here we have the simple A. B. C. of God's judgment, Belshazzar is caught, judged in a dramatic way –*

<sup>5</sup> In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. <sup>6</sup> Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other. **Daniel 5:5–6 (NKJV)**

*F. Yes, the letter should be a D. here, but it is an F because Belshazzar FAILED –*

<sup>22</sup> **“But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. <sup>23</sup> And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. <sup>24</sup> Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written.**

<sup>25</sup> **“And this is the inscription that was written:**

**MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN**

<sup>26</sup> **This *is* the interpretation of *each* word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; <sup>27</sup> TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; <sup>28</sup> PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” **Daniel 5:22–28 (NKJV)****

*F. Herod was a similar small “g” god –*

<sup>21</sup> **So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” <sup>23</sup> Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was**

eaten by worms and died. <sup>24</sup> But the word of God grew and multiplied.  
Acts 12:21–24 (NKJV)

*II. Here is Asaph and God's message to such rulers -*

*1. A great question, asked to seemingly great men -*

<sup>2</sup> **How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?**

**Selah**

*A. How long? Too long according to the view of the poor people who live under them!*

<sup>9</sup> When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "**How long, O Lord**, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were*, was completed.

Revelation 6:9–11 (NKJV)

*Even in Paradise God's people cry, "How Long" this means they see continued injustice on the earth, and cry for its end!*

*B. How long? Not long at all, in light of eternity!*

*Showing partiality to the wicked is the quick easy way to power, but it is power that will NOT LAST!*

<sup>36</sup> **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36 (NKJV)**

*2. A great command, if heeded would make a politician truly GOOD and not only great -*

<sup>3</sup> **Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.**

<sup>4</sup> **Deliver the poor and needy; Free *them* from the hand of the wicked.**

Psalm 82:3-4

*A. Too often politicians pretend to be champions of the needy, they campaign they will free the oppressed!*

*B. Yet, in reality (and in secrecy) they seek to please the CORRUPT!*

3. *These so called “gods” rulers, are know-nothings, they walk in darkness –*  
A. *An ungodly world admires them, counts them the best-of-the-best, yet they are STUPID!*

**5 They do not know, nor do they understand; Psalm 82:5 A**

*B. They walk in darkness meaning moral, even satanic darkness –*  
**They walk about in darkness; Psalm 82:5 B**

**<sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)**

*4. They do not understand, our earth is condemned -*

**All the foundations of the earth are unstable. Psalm 82:5 C**

**<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10–13 (NKJV)**

*5. When ungodly men rule, they rule according to God’s will, but they will not rule for long!*

**<sup>6</sup> I said, “You *are* gods, And all of you *are* children of the Most High.**

**<sup>7</sup> But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes.” Psalm 82:6-7**

*III. Asaph’s closing prayer -*

**<sup>8</sup> Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.**

**Psalm  
82 (NKJV)**

*1. Asaph lived at a time of ungodly rule, but he prayed for and trusted in God’s final judgment!*

2. *We pray for the same thing when we pray according to Jesus' instruction –*  
**<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.  
Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)**

3. *At Christmastime, we celebrate at least a partial answer to this prayer –*  
**<sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the  
government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.**

**<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and  
establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even  
forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6–7  
(NKJV)**

*Luke 2 born under Caesar Augustus, who was called "god" in his day,  
Jesus, placed in a manger was born to rule forever –*

**"He is Lord of lords and King of kings..." Revelation 17:12-14**

*Arnold Brevick*