

Psalm 82

1 A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. 4 Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. 7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

Introduction:

1. "A Psalm of Asaph" – This is the 10th Asaphic Psalm in Book 3 (Pss. 73-89).
2. "gods" – civil rulers; magistrates (Isa. 41:23; Jn. 10:34).

Outline:

- A. God's judgment over the gods (v.1)
- B. Judicial questioning & corruption (v.2)
- C. God's expectation of justice (v.3-4)
- C.' God's judges evil (v.5)
- B.' Judicial sentence (v.6-7)
- A.' God's judgment over the earth (v.8)

Observations:

1. Inclusio (see v.1 and v.8): God is the Judge of judges – the God of gods.
2. God expects earthly rulers to be just and defend the helpless – no respecter of persons.
3. These earthly rulers (mainly Israelites) did not fulfill their post.
4. God will bring them to justice.

Lesson: God is good and just. His scales are always balanced.

Psalm 83

1 A Song or Psalm of Asaph. Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

2 For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

9 Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: 10 Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. 11 Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: 12 Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.

13 O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 14 As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 15 So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. 16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD.

17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Introduction:

1. "A Psalm of Asaph" – This is the 11th and final Asaphic Psalm in Book 3 (Pss. 73-89). The first Asaphic Psalm is Ps. 50 (in Book 2). There are 12 Asaphic Psalms total.
2. A Concentric Psalm – Prayers, Lament, & Imprecatory.

Outline:

- A. Asaph's Prayer for Divine Action (v.1)
- B. The Plotting's of the Enemies (vv.2-4)
- C. The Greatness of the Enemies (vv.5-8)
- C.' The Greatness of God Against Israel's Enemies (vv.9-12)
- B.' Shaming of the Enemies (vv. 13-16)
- A.' Asaph's Prayer for Divine Action (vv.17-18)

Observations:

1. God's enemies are those who "hate" Him (v.2).
2. Ten nations are mentioned here. EDOM, ISHMAELITES, MOAB, HAGARENES, GEBAL, AMMON, AMALEK, PHILISTINES, TYRE, and ASSUR.
3. Asaph desired for the Millennial Kingdom to come so that Jehovah would be acknowledged as the most high over all the earth.

Lesson: Do you recognize the greatness of Jehovah God?