

PSALMS
Book Three
Psalm 82
A psalm of Asaph

1. God presides in the great assembly; He gives judgment among the “gods”:

(The humans carrying out their God-appointed task of governing and administering justice are representatives of the LORD in judging His people. The picture here is of God presiding over all human authorities and holding them accountable.) - Is 3:13, Rom 13:1-7, Jn 19:10-12.

a. How long (“until when?”) will you defend the unjust (“judge unjustly”) and show partiality to the wicked (or, “evil”? (Ex 23:2, Dt 16:9, 24:17; 2 Chr 19:7, Is 1:23)

Selah

b. Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. (Lev 19:15, Jer 5:27-29 - *God takes it personal when justice is not served*)

c. Rescue (“deliver”) the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (Ps 41:1, Is 1:17) *Justice and administration must be impartial, unswayed by the blandishments of power and wealth.*

- They know nothing, they understand nothing.

- They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken (“slipping, tottering”). *People who are not privy to deals/agreements are nonetheless often affected by them. They try to survive and are often at the whip end of events they didn't or couldn't see coming.*

2. I said, ‘You are “gods”; you are all sons of the Most High.’ God here reminds the judges and administrators that they are His subjects and subject to His judgement.

a. But (“nevertheless”) you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler. “*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that to face judgment.*” - Heb 9:27 *Whether one rules over a corporate empire, commands an army or cleans restrooms for their daily bread - all must one day die and give an account to their Creator.*

b. Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are Your inheritance (or, “You will ‘take possession’ of all the nations”).

How do you see yourself? Hopefully as a servant. How do you see your role as a spouse? As a parent? As an employee? Have you come to serve or do you expect to be

served? (Lk 22:24-27, Jn 13:1-17) The message of this psalm applies to far more than government.