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**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 • Read Psalm 82**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who penned this Psalm (superscript)? Who is the main subject of v1? Where does He stand (v1a)? What else is He doing (v1b)? Where? What does He ask in v2a? In what way, specifically, were they unjust (v2b)? Whom were they to defend (v3a)? To whom were they to do justice (v3b)? What else were they to do for them (v4a)? And what else (v4b)? But what is the state of these judges (v5a)? In what do they walk about (v5b)? What effect does this have (v5c)? What did God say that they were (6a)? How else did He describe them (v6b)? What shall happen to them (v7)? Who instead will arise (v8a)? To do what? What will God, Who does this, inherit (v8b)?*

**What comfort is there for those who are oppressed by those in authority?** Psalm 82 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **although earthly authorities may oppress us, they must answer to God.**

In several passages (such as Ex 21:6; 22:8,9; etc.) , those who render judgment are called "elohim" (gods). All authority comes from God, depends upon God, and is under God (Jn 19:11; Rom 13:1). This is why it is such a dreadful thing to dishonor authority, and an even more dreadful thing to mishandle authority that does not ultimately belong to us.

But, as we see in this Psalm the fact that all authorities are under authority is a great comfort to those who are under wicked authorities on earth. Just as they sit like gods among those who are under them, so also one day He will sit among them and judge them (v1). And, He will judge them for what they did with their authority. Did they use it to right wrongs, so that poverty and affliction were not made worse by oppression and others taking advantage (v3-4)?

God's Word is not ignorant of what most authorities on earth are actually like. They judge unjustly and favor the wicked (v2). Although justice is at the foundation of a society, earthly speaking, those who are supposed to function as this foundation are unstable, and the foundation gets destroyed (v5c, cf. 11:3). But here, as in Psalm 11, the solution is the same: the Lord sits on high, and He judges the sons of men (v7, cf. 11:4-6).

It must be a significant part of the believer's life in this world to face injustice and oppression. For the Lord has given us many, many songs to sing about how He will correct this in His justice. The already-mentioned Psalm 11, comes on the heels of many such Psalms: 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10. But v8 ties especially to Psalm 2. For there, we learn that the only-begotten Son of God (cf. 2:7) will have all the nations for His inheritance (cf. 2:8), and the kings and judges of the earth must repent of how they reign (cf. 2:1-2), submitting to God's and Christ's rule over them (cf. 2:3), or else be suddenly and devastatingly shattered (cf. 2:9, 12b-c).

Taken by itself, 82:8 could be understood only of God Himself. But with 2:8 so clearly in view, we know that this is also the begotten Son of God. That is to say: v8 of this Psalm is clearly about Jesus. This is why, when He is accused of blasphemy (cf. Jn 10:33) for declaring Himself to be One with the Father (cf. Jn 10:28-30), He identifies Himself not as one of the "gods" mentioned in Ps 82:1, 6, but as the Son of God, the only-begotten Who inherits the nations (v8). It is a powerful argument: the language is used of men in the office of judge, to whom the Word of God came (cf. Jn 10:34-35); but, Jesus is the Word Himself Whom the Father sent into the world (cf. Jn 10:36).

He is not merely an earthly judge into whose hands were committed particular judgments in a particular nation at a particular time. Jesus is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Judge of judges. He rules over all the nations, from all times, and He judges their judges!

Praise be to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and especially to the God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ. Arise, O Lord Jesus, and judge the earth, for You shall inherit the nations!

What are some examples of abuse of authority that you know of? Before Whom will they stand? What is this Judge currently doing for you? What will He do on the last day?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You are God, who defends the poor and fatherless and does justice to the afflicted and the needy. You have delivered us, and You will call all men to account. We praise You, Lord Jesus, the only-begotten and anointed Son to whom all the nations belong as Your inheritance. Come now, and declare Your Word among us by Your Spirit, which we ask in Your Name, Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP82B "God Is in His Congregation" or TPH82 "God Stands in the Great Assembly"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Psalm 82. These are God's words. I saw my face half God stands in the congregation of the mighty he judges among the gods. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked say la. Defend the poor and fatherless, do justice to the afflicted and needy deliver the poor and needy free them from the hand of the wicked.

They do not know, nor do they understand. They walk about in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are unstable. I said, you are gods and you are children of the most high. But you saw die like men. And fall, like one of the princess. Arise O. God judge the earth.

For you showing herit. The nations. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. So the situation in Psalm, 82 are the situation on earth that's all made into addresses. Is the fact that there are judges who judge unjustly, there are judges who show partiality to the wicked.

It belongs to many of God's people throughout history and even now to be poor or fatherless or afflicted or needy And to be attacked by the wicked. And one of the experiences of people in this world, Have fallen and among the following humanity in Adam. And in the world is it currently is is that the justice that God has established and that God has told us about in his word is not followed by very many Of those who sat in seats of judgment.

And since the scriptures address it so often, we should not be surprised. When we are unjustly treated or when we are harmed and then we come to seek redress for being harmed and we are not given justice by the judge. Before whom we come on earth. So, we should not be surprised but we should take comfort in the fact.

That earthly judges have a judge of their own. God sits in judgment over the judges. And one of the things that makes the miscarriage of justice. And, and

By earthly authorities. Such a horrible thing is that they are sitting in a seat of justice that really belongs to God. They're sitting in the seat of authority, that really belongs to god. You remember when pilot tells Jesus to what, you know, that I have authority. Hi. To have you executed her to let you go.

Jesus says, actually you can't have authority unless it's given to you from somewhere else.

And in Romans 13, we learn who that somebody else ultimately is Because on earth, there are those authorities who seem to be ultimate but even their authority comes from God. There is no authority except that it comes from God. And everyone who is an authority has to answer to God.

Well, in Psalm 82, God comes now and among those who were acting in the place of god and the seats of judgment. He sits himself as judge over them. So God stands in the congregation of the gods. Or God. But in this case it's probably the gods Elohim is the word in verse 1.

He judges among the gods And we find out why it is that they are being given this title. It is day to him, especially the word of god has come. The ones who not only know, from general revelation that there is a god and they have to answer to him.

But now, especially to judges among his people who had received his word. But all know that they must answer to God for the judgment that they render. And he says, how long will you judge on? Jocelyn show partiality to the wicked and so forth. And then he compares what they want to have been to what they actually are.

What they actually are is in verse 5. They do not know nor do they understand. They walk about in darkness. All the foundations of the Earth are unstable. And so God has given on Earth as a foundation of a of a stable society, whether it's a stable society in the home stable, society in the church stable society in the nation, one of the great foundations is the authority structures that God has given for each of those and the proper carrying out of those authorities.

But when those who are in authority, become oppressors, and persecutors than the foundations are unstable as it says here, or is it says in Psalm 11, the foundations are destroyed. What can the righteous try? But if you remember, singing Psalm 11, you remember the Lord sits The the Lord sits upon his throne and he is high up on his holy mountain.

He looks down upon the children of men and he judges and hates wickedness and lying. And so what man is In verse 5 is compared to what they ought to have. Been in verse 6, I said you are God's. And all of you are children of the most high and this isn't children of the most high merely that they were created by him.

But in that as those who sit and lower seats of judgment, they are in the family business as it were. They have They have a. Duty 2 and are reflecting upon God and his own judgment. But they are not carrying out their office in a way that imitates God, they are carrying out their office in darkness and without understanding And rather than being those who by whom God gives stability to, The society in which they have been given authority.

They are the very ones by him that stability. The society is robbed of that stability. So he says, you shall die like men and fall, like one of the princess and here. He's now reminding them that yes, there are those who are princes and judges of other nations whom obviously, God is going to destroy.

This was a big part of the history of the nation of Israel. He waited to give them the promised land until the sin of the amorites was complete. And then when he's bringing them into the promised land, two of The first Great Kings to fall are sea on and a dog kings of the Emirates.

And you guys know August king of Bashan of the Amorites because he was 13 and 1/2 ft tall and had the iron pad and they kept it to remember the greatness of their god. Well, this is still true about the greatness of our God. That there are those princes of the nations.

You know, the kinds of people who end up in the news now names like

Names, like Putin and Biden and Zelenski. And others. Maybe you're not quite so high as far as those on earth. I think but who do abuse their power and act as if they have authority that is from themselves and for themselves and they will die and fall and be judged for how they exercise their authority.

Well now he's saying in verse 7 that it's even worse. For those who are among god's people. And had his word and knew more clearly where their authority came from. And still did not exercise justice. And their seats of authority. They will die like men. They will fall like one of the princess Now, there's a wonderful.

Conclusion to this solvent verse 8, because it reminds us That there is one king. That there is one judge. Who rules rightly into judges justly. And that king and judge is God arise, oh, god, and judge the earth. For you shall inherit. All the nations. You see that king and that judge is not just god but he's also the anointed one from Psalm 2.

All of these. Nations raining and nations raging and kings and rulers plotting in vain. And the judges of the earth who need to pay attention in Psalm 2, They are all vying to try to get what doesn't belong to them, but it does belong. To the begotten son. Today, I have begotten, you It does belong to the one who is told ask of me and I shall give you the nations.

For your heritage. He will shatter them. With his. Rod of iron or rod of bronze. And so the god Of Psalm, 82:8 is the god or is the anointed of Psalm 2 verse 8. Jesus is both the Christ, the anointed one. And God, who arises and judges, not just one nation, israel, or Judah.

Or one of these other nations that is ruled by one of these other princes of verse 7, but every single nation's authority. And judgment. Belongs to him. And so when the Lord Jesus is talking about redeeming his people and those whom the father gives to him comes to him and none can take them out of his hand and

none can take them out of his father's hand.

And those two things are true at the same time he says, because I and the father are one And the Jews pick up stones. Just told him they say, you're blaspheming. And he says he refers to this song. He says, They say you have made yourself out to be God and he says Don't you remember Saul 92?

Where to those to whom the word of god came were called God because they acted in the office of God. Jesus is not claiming to be one of the ones in the middle of the song. He's he's reminding them that even the use of language about those who are merely human.

Even the use of language is justified the language of using the word as a god is justified in solem, 82 about those who are merely human and sentences of judgment. How about the Lord Jesus is the, what not and the middle of the zombies, the one at the end.

Is God who has arisen to judge the earth. Who is inheriting all of the nations? And that's our ultimate comfort. When we are abused, when we cannot get justice. Even in this life, you leave this world, not having gotten justice. The final judgment is not been rendered. Christ the king Christ, the judge Well, sit among the judges.

Everything will be put, right? We don't have to despair. As if.

As if justice will not be served. Jesus will take vengeance in Jesus. Will vindicate, his people He will deliver us. But let us whenever we are in a place of authority. Take to heart. Sawm 82. And the fact that that authority is from God not from ourselves. And we will have to answer 10.

For what we did with it.

Probably. Thank you for giving. Us this portion of your word today. Well, thank you, that Jesus is king of kings, and Lord of lords. And the judge of the judges. Then we pray that when We are mistreated and receive injustice. That this truth about Christ would comfort our hearts.

And that we would desire for him to receive the glory that you will have when he gives the ultimate judgment. And we pray Lord that when we are in situations and places of authority. You would make us to judge, not by outward appearance, but with just judgment. As those to whom the word of god has come.

Grant to us to employ the authority that we have according to scripture, and we pray for those who are an authority over us, That you would make them to do so. Now that we might have the reflection of Christ's justice even now in the places that owe him that For we ask it in his name. Amen.