



DIVINE TRIAL, DIVINE TRIUMPH

PSALM 82 BIBLE STUDY | 4.7.21

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DIVINE TRIUMPH

- 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you **alive** with Christ. He **forgave** us all our **sins**, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14, NIV)
 - And having **disarmed** the **powers** and **authorities**, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**. (Col 2:13-15, NIV)
 - 13 For he has **rescued** us from the **dominion of darkness** and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son** he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14, NIV)
 - and saying: “The [appointed] time has been fulfilled and the **Kingdom of God** has come near. Repent and believe in the Gospel!” (Mk 1:15, AT)
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SPIRITUAL WARFARE



- For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers of this dark world** and against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**.
(Eph 6:12, NIV)
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THE LORD (YHWH)



13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘**The LORD [YHWH]**, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my **name** forever,
the **name** you shall call me
from generation to generation. (Ex 3:13-15, NIV)





CHRIST, THE LORD



- She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will **save** his people from their **sins.**” (Mt 1:21, NIV)
- 57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” 58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I am!**” 59 At this, they picked up stones **to stone him...** (Jn 8:57-59a, NIV)



PSALM 82 (NIV)



1 God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

2 “How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?

3 Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

5 “The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’

7 But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”

8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.





PSALM 82:1
GOD AMONG THE GODS?



God [*Elohim*, singular] presides in the **divine assembly**,
among the **gods** [*elohim*, plural] He judges: (Ps 82:1, AT; cf. HCSB)

God has taken his place in the **divine council**;
in the midst of the **gods** he holds judgment: (Ps 82:1, NRSV; cf. ESV)





PSALM 82:1
PRINCES, POWERS,
AND GODS



- For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers of this dark world** and against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**. (Eph 6:12, NIV)
 - “At that time **Michael**, the great **prince** who protects your people, will arise (Dn 12:1a, NIV)
 - “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the **gods** [*elohim*] of Egypt. I am the LORD (Ex 12:12, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1 “SONS OF GOD”?

4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 On what were its footings set,

or who laid its cornerstone—

7 while the **morning stars** sang together

and all the **angels** [lit. “**sons of Elohim**”] shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7, NIV)

when the morning stars sang together

and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy? (Job 38:7, ESV)





PSALM 82:1
“SONS OF GOD”?



- Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** also came among them.
(Job 1:6, ESV)
 - Ascribe to the LORD, you **heavenly beings [sons of *Elohim*]**, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness (Ps 29:1-2, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1
NO OTHER GODS
BUT GOD?



- You were shown these things so that you might know that the **LORD is God; besides him there is no other** (Dt 4:35, NIV)
 - “There is no one holy **like** the LORD; **there is no one besides you**; there is no Rock **like** our God. (1 Sam 2:2, NIV cf. 1 Ki 8:60; 2 Ki 19:19; Is 43:10; 1 Ch 17:20; Mk 12:32)
 - “Now then, listen, you lover of pleasure, lounging in your security and **saying to yourself, ‘I am, and there is none besides me.’**” (Is 47:8, NIV)
 - This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She **said to herself, “I am the one! And there is none besides me.”** (Zep 2:15, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1
THERE'S NO GOD
LIKE GOD!



- Who **among the gods** is **like** you, LORD? Who is **like** you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? (Ex 15:11, NIV)
 - Now I know that **the LORD** is greater than all **other gods** (Ex 18:11, NIV; cf. Ex 20:3)
 - **Among the gods** there is none **like** you, Lord; no deeds can **compare** with yours (Ps 86:8, NIV; cf. Ps 138:1)
 - For what **god** is there in **heaven** or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do? (Dt 3:24, NIV)
 - For you, LORD [YHWH], are the **Most High** over all the earth; you are exalted far **above all gods**. (Ps 97:9, NIV)
 - For great is the **LORD** and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared **above all gods**. (Ps 96:4, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1 CREATED, SUBSERVIENT DIVINE BEINGS



1 Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

2 Praise him, all his **angels**;

praise him, all his **heavenly hosts**.

3 Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the skies.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for **at his command they were created**, (Ps 148:1-5, NIV)





PSALM 82:1
CREATED, SUBSERVIENT
DIVINE BEINGS



- You **alone** are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. **You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.** (Neh 9:6, NIV)
 - Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his **throne** with all the **multitudes of heaven** standing around him on his right and on his left. (1 Ki 22:19, NIV)
 - For the **LORD** is the great God [*el*], the **great King above all gods** [*elohim*]. (Ps 95:3, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1
ISN'T JESUS THE ONLY
"SON OF GOD"?



- For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only begotten** [μονογενής | *monogones*] **Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16, KJV)
 - For, in this way, God loved the world: that He gave the one-of-a-kind Son, so that everyone who [continually] believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16, AT)
 - 17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his **one and only son** [*monogenes*], 18 even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” (Heb 11:17-18, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1 WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY?



- 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are **one**.”
- 31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”
- 33 “We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for **blasphemy**, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God**.”
- 34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘**I have said you are “gods”**’? [Ps 82:6] 35 If he called them ‘**gods**,’ to **whom the word of God came**—and Scripture cannot be set aside—36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp. (Jn 10:29-39, NIV)



PSALM 82:1 GODS: HUMAN JUDGES?



- 7 “If anyone gives a neighbor silver or goods for safekeeping and they are stolen from the neighbor’s house, the thief, if caught, must pay back double. 8 But if the thief is not found, the owner of the house must appear **before the judges** [*elohim*], and they must determine whether the owner of the house has laid hands on the other person’s property. 9 In all cases of illegal possession of an ox, a donkey, a sheep, a garment, or any other lost property about which somebody says, ‘This is mine,’ both parties are to bring their cases **before the judges** [*elohim*]. The one whom the **judges** [*elohim*] declare [plural verb] guilty must pay back double to the other. (Ex 22:7-9, NIV)
 - 9 For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, ‘This is it,’ the case of both parties shall come **before God** [*elohim*]. The one whom **God** [*elohim*] condemns [plural verb] shall pay double to his neighbor. (Ex 22:9, ESV cf. NRSV, contra HCSB, NASB, KJV)
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PSALM 82:1
GODS: HUMAN
JUDGES?



- And when God **had me wander** [plural verb] from my father’s household, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.” ’ ’ (Gen 20:13, NIV)
 - Then people will say, “Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God [*Elohim*] who **judges** [plural verb] the earth.” (Ps 58:11, NIV)
 - And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that **God** [*Elohim*] **went out** [plural verb] to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their **gods** [*elohim*] from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? (2 Sam 7:23, NIV)
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PSALM 82:1
GODS: HUMAN
JUDGES?



- 5 The **heavens** praise your wonders, LORD, your faithfulness too, in the **assembly** of the **holy ones**. 6 For who in the **skies** above can **compare** with the LORD? Who is **like** the LORD **among the heavenly beings**? 7 In the **council** of the **holy ones** God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. (Ps 89:5-7, NIV)





PSALM 82:1
GODS: HUMAN
JUDGES?



- 22 Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son**, 23 and I told you, ‘Let my **son** go, so he may worship me.’” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son (Ex 4:22-23, NIV)





PSALM 82:2
HOW LONG?



- 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their **inheritance**, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the **sons of God**. (Dt 32:8, ESV). 9 But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted **heritage**. (Dt 32:9, NIV)

How long will you vindicate the unjust

and show partiality to the wicked? (Psalm 82:2, AT)





PSALM 82:2 HOW LONG?



1 **How long, LORD?** Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 **How long** must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me? (Ps 13:1-2, NIV)





PSALM 82:3
WATCH OVER
THE WEAK



Vindicate the lowly and the fatherless,

for the poor and oppressed do justice (Ps 82:3, AT)

- The LORD watches over the **foreigner** and sustains the **fatherless** and the **widow**, but he frustrates the ways of the **wicked**. (Ps 146:9, NIV)
- A father to the **fatherless**, a defender of **widows**, is God in his holy dwelling. (Ps 68:5, NIV)





PSALM 82:4-5
WATCH OVER
THE WEAK



4 Rescue the lowly and the needy,

from the hand of the wicked, deliver them

5 They do not know, they do not understand,

they walk about in darkness

all the foundations of the earth are shaken (Ps 82:4-5, AT)





PSALM 82:6-7
DIVINE JUDGMENT



6 I said, "You are gods,
you are all sons of the Most High
7 But in fact, like mortals you will die,
and like any prince you will fall (Ps 82:7, AT)





PSALM 82:6-7
DIVINE JUDGMENT



- 21 In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the **heavens above** and the kings on the **earth below**. 22 They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. (Is 24:21-22, NIV)
 - “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for **the devil and his angels**. (Mt 25:41, NIV)
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PSALM 82:8
DIVINE TRIUMPH



Arise, O God! Judge the earth,
for you will inherit all the nations (Ps 82:8, AT)





DIVINE BEINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



- 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him **all things were created**: things in **heaven** and on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones** or **powers** or **rulers** or **authorities**; all things have been created through him and for him. (Col 1:15-16, NIV)
 - 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with **angels, authorities** and **powers in submission to him**. (1 Pet 3:21-22, NIV)
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DIVINE BEINGS
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither **angels** nor **demons**, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39, NIV cf. 1 Cor 15:24; Eph 6:12; Col 2:15)