

Of God and Rulers

Psalm 82

Introduction

v.1 The author sees a vision of God standing amidst the summoned rulers of Israel, calling them to account.
God stands a Chief Justice... “The Most High”

The rulers are called literally “gods”
“in the language of the Old Testament, rulers and judges as deputies of the heavenly King could be given the honorific title “god”

v.2 They are rebuked for their mishandling of power.
They could be bought and bribed.

v.3-4 They were intended to hold back the darkness.
To be a wall against evil men.

v.5 But they had become:
a) Theologically, spiritually ignorant
b) Professionally corrupt
c) And society was shaken

v.6 But God says, “I on My part appointed you as sons”

- Christ is the only begotten Son
- Israel are nation sons
- Angels are created sons
- Christians are adopted, recreated sons
- Politicians are designated, invested sons
(Gen. 9:6-7; Rom. 13:1f; 2 Chron. 19:5f)

v.7 But nevertheless though they are His people, they will be judged like any other of the “princes” of the nation.

v.8 The psalmist has hope though. Someday God will arise to judge and then rule the world in righteousness.

Until then, we resist
live separately together
preach
suffer
and we pray

Lessons:

1. No human ruler is free
2. A human ruler with no knowledge of god is called “a serpent deaf to its charmer”
3. Their decrees will be the blind leading the blind
4. That society will be shaken
5. And will collapse
6. Man’s only hope is for a divine King.