

Psalm 82 – Judges.

Asaph warned that judges without understanding, who ignore God's appointment of them, will perish.

1: The psalmist envisioned God presiding over an assembly of gods/judges (God's representatives who are in authority on earth).

Using God's words, the Psalmist warned these magistrates to do their jobs right.

2-5: The judges were unjust and partial. Instead they should judge fairly and champion the cause of the oppressed (including the weak, fatherless, poor, and needy). The judges roam the earth without spiritual or intellectual understanding and in moral darkness so that the foundations of the earth are shaken, that is, law and order are undermined.

6-7: God warned the wicked judges that they will perish. He had appointed them as His representatives on earth. But despite their exalted position, they were held accountable by God.

8: Asaph called on God to arise and judge the earth, that is, all its inhabitants, for all are His and therefore are responsible to Him.

Exodus 23:2 - *“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.*

Deuteronomy 10:18 - *“He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.*

Micah 6:8 - *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Psalm 83 – Enemies.

The Psalmist lamented the great danger from the many enemies that hemmed in Judah to crush her. He prayed that God would muster His power to destroy them, as He had done in former victories.

Psalm 122:6 - *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.*

Psalm 121:4 - *Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

Psalm 84 – Desiring God.

1-2: The psalm breaks out with praise for the dwelling place of the LORD Almighty. For this place the psalmist's heart and flesh (body) longed. To yearn for the temple meant to long for the living God Himself. In that day people could approach God through the temple priests. The psalmist's faith was thus in the living, powerful Lord God.

3-4: The Psalmist conveyed his intense yearning for God and His temple by noting the enviable position of those in the temple - nesting birds and ministering servants (priests who dwell in the temple rooms).

5-7: The Psalmist declared the blessedness the joyous privileges and great benefits of those who demonstrate their faith by going on pilgrimage to appear in Jerusalem (Zion) before the Lord.

On their pilgrimage they were strengthened by God's blessings. The Valley of Baca ("balsam tree") was apparently a waterless place that became a place of springs. The rains would cover the arid valley with pools of water, a vivid picture of God's blessings on the faithful pilgrims.

9: The pilgrim, once he arrived in God's dwelling place in Zion.

10-12: The pilgrim-psalmist stated why he longed to go to Zion: he was confident that God would answer his prayer, he said that one day there was better than a thousand elsewhere; to be a servant there was better than living in the lavish tents of the wicked. The reason, of course, was that God was at the Temple and would bless and protect and bestow favour and good things on those who would walk blamelessly.

This passage is a companion to Ps 42 and 43, because it expresses the same yearning for the formal place of worship. The pilgrim thirsts for God and yearns to be in His House, He declared the blessedness of a believer who in faith journeys to the temple to pray to the Lord.

Psalm 42:1 - *As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.*

Mathew 5:6 – *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*