

Psalm 82 / Gospel According to John 10:30 - 39

New American Standard Version

1 **Psalm 82**
 2 God takes His stand in His own congregation;
 3 He judges in the midst of the rulers [*lit.*, “gods”].
 4 ² How long will you judge unjustly
 5 And show partiality to the wicked? *Selah.*
 6 ³ Vindicate the weak and fatherless;
 7 Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.
 8 ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy;
 9 Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked.
 10 ⁵ They do not know nor do they understand;
 11 They walk about in darkness;
 12 All the foundations of the earth are shaken.
 13 ⁶ I said, “You are gods,
 14 And all of you are sons of the Most High.
 15 ⁷ “Nevertheless you will die like men
 16 And fall like *any* one of the princes.”
 17 ⁸ Arise, O God, judge the earth!
 18 For it is You who possesses all the nations.

19 **John 10**
 20 ³⁰ “I and the Father are one.” ³¹ The Jews picked up stones
 21 again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, “I showed you
 22 many good works from the Father; for which of them are you
 23 stoning Me?” ³³ The Jews answered Him, “For a good work
 24 we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You,
 25 being a man, make Yourself out *to be* God.” ³⁴ Jesus
 26 answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I
 27 SAID, YOU ARE GODS?’” ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the
 28 word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),
 29 ³⁶ do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent
 30 into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am
 31 the Son of God?’” ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do
 32 not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, though you do not believe
 33 Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand
 34 that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” ³⁹ Therefore
 35 they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their
 36 grasp.

How do we understand the Old Testament quotation Jesus used?

First, work through Psalm 82:

Observation (What does it say?):

Circle all forms of the word “god.”

Underline all the groups mentioned in this passage.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How are the groups related to each other?

Who are “they” in lines 10-11?

How does “You are gods” (l. 13) relate to the concern about justice and judgment?

Summarize the meaning of lines 13-14 in the context of this Psalm.

Now read Jesus’ use of this Psalm:

Observation (What does it say?):

Circle statements (by Jesus or by the Jews) about His relationship to God/Father.

Underline what Jesus says about Scripture.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you learn about Jesus’ view of Scripture? What might “broken” mean (line. 28)?

How does Jesus quotation from Psalm 82 relate to the different statements about Him and the Father?

How does Jesus use of the Psalm answer the Jews? Or does it?

How does His use of the Psalm relate to the Psalmist’s original meaning?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What do you see in the Psalm or in the Gospel that you can apply to your life?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer’s thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer’s meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer’s meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel