

Psalm 82:8, a Question

Commentary for August 16, 2019 — Who Gives the Nations to Be an Inheritance?

In my July 18, 2016 Commentary, "[You Shall Inherit All Nations](#)" I discussed why the Son of God received the inheritance or allotment of Psalm 82:8. In this Commentary, I show who gave the nations to the Son as His inheritance, and why He did so.

Psalm 82 has eight verses. The last verse says, "**Arise, O God [Elohim], judge the earth: for you shall inherit all nations**" (Psalm 82:8). The Concordant Old Testament gives us better information from the Hebrew: "**Do arise, O Elohim; do judge the earth; For it is You Yourself Who shall have the allotment of all the nations.**"¹

Verse 8 is spoken by the same *Elohim* who judges the Elohim in verse 82:1: "**God [Elohim, in Hebrew but the verb is singular] stands in the congregation of the mighty [El, singular]; he judges among the gods [elohim, plural].**" These Elohim (plural) were the "gods" of the nations who unjustly judged human beings for whom they were responsible (Psalm 82:2–6).²

In Psalm 82:7 the unjust *elohim*, "gods" plural, are sentenced by God to "**die like men [adam], and fall like one of the princes**" (Psalm 82:7). These supernatural beings are sentenced to die like mortal, physical human beings. This judgment was given in the time of David.³

All nations belong to God, but he delegated authority and judgment to Sons of God to rule and judge the nations, to instruct them about YHWH. They all failed. They also sought out daughters of Adam (Genesis 6:2–4) as wives and produced offspring (see footnote 1).

The Earth Is YHWH's

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto YHWH: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before you. For the kingdom is YHWH's: and he is the governor among the nations."

• **Psalm 22:27–28**

Let us review the ultimate power in creation, "**... the earth is YHWH's**" (Exodus 9:29). YHWH Himself says, "**all the earth is mine**" (Exodus 19:5). YHWH owns everything.

- "**Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is YHWH's your God, the earth also, with all that therein is**" (Deuteronomy 10:14).

¹ For an analysis of Psalm 82 and its structure as an ancient Near East court judgment scene, see my articles "[Elohim and the Son of God Part 1](#)" and "[Idolatry and God's Punishment](#)."

² The same beings in Psalm 82 are mentioned in Psalm 89: "**For who in the heaven can be compared unto YHWH? who among the sons of the mighty [Hebrew: "sons of EL," or sons of God] can be likened unto YHWH? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints ..."** (Psalm 89:6–7).

"The heavens are yours [YHWH's], the earth also is yours ..." (Psalm 89:11).

³ Psalm 82 was a "**psalm of Asaph,**" known as "**Asaph the seer**" (2 Chronicles 29:30). He "saw" the events of the psalm in a vision. His songs were prophecies (1 Chronicles 25:2).

- **“The earth is YHWH’s ... the world, and they that dwell therein”** (Psalm 24:1).
- **“For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof ... for the earth is the Lord’s ...”** (1 Corinthians 10:26, 28; quoting Exodus 9:29 and Psalm 24:1).
- **“... for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O YHWH, and you are exalted as head above all”** (1 Chronicles 29:11).
- **“... seven times shall pass over you [King Nebuchadnezzar], till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will”** (Daniel 4:25). Nebuchadnezzar later repented and acknowledged YHWH’s sovereignty: **“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. ...”** (Daniel 4:35). Also, **“One like the son of man ... shall take possession of the earth”** (Daniel 7:13–14).

The people of the nations receive God’s salvation through Christ as part of His inheritance:

- **“... after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”** (Ephesians 1:13–14). **“... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men ... by the Spirit; That the Gentiles [the nations] should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel”** (Ephesians 3:5–6).
- **“Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he [God the Father] has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”** (Hebrews 1:2).

YHWH transferred the inheritance and responsibility of the nations from the “gods” to His only-begotten Son. Psalm 82:8 tells us when YHWH formally announced His gift. God’s Son Christ Jesus will take full possession of the inheritance given in Psalm 82:8 when He returns.

- **“Among the gods [elohim, plural] there is none like unto you, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto your works. All nations whom you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord; and shall glorify your name”** (Psalm 86:8–9).

Also in King David’s time, YHWH gave a Messianic prophecy in Psalm 2, fulfilled by Christ:

- **“I will declare the decree: YHWH has said unto me, ‘You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen [nations] for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession’”** (Psalm 2:7–8).⁴

Many have difficulty with the idea of Jesus Christ inheriting all nations from God the Father in Psalm 82:8. It limits the false concept of a “trinity” of the “godhead.” Paul corrects them:

“There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”

• **1 Corinthians 8:6**

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⁴ Matthew 3:17, 17:5; John 1:14, 18, 3:16; Acts 13:33; & Hebrews 1:5–6, 5:8 refer to Psalm 2:7–8.