

## You Shall Inherit All Nations

### Commentary for July 18, 2016 — Who Will Inherit in Psalm 82:8?

I have written about Psalm 82 before.<sup>1</sup> This Commentary will discuss a point made in the last verse of Psalm 82. The psalm was one of 12 by Asaph, a “seer” who wrote in the time of King David of Israel (2 Chronicles 29:30, 35:15). A seer is a prophet who sees the future in a vision. In Psalm 82 Asaph “saw” a meeting of what scholars call the “Divine Council.”<sup>2</sup> Read all eight verses of Psalm 82 so you will understand the context of what I propose.

In Psalm 82 are three varieties of beings, each called by the term “Elohim.” Elohim means “gods” or “God” depending on the context. “Elohim” has a plural construct, but its plurality or singularity is determined by pronouns, verbs, and adjectives. Here are three key verses that use “Elohim” in the Hebrew of Psalm 82.

Verse 1:

**“God [Elohim] stands [singular verb] in the congregation of the mighty [Elohim, singular];  
he judges [singular verb] among the gods [Elohim].”**

Verse 6:

**“I [singular, referring to God] have said, You [plural pronoun] are gods [Elohim];  
and all of you are children of the most High.”**

Verse 8:

**“Arise, O God [Elohim], judge the earth:  
for you shall inherit all nations.”**

The Concordant Literal Version has an expanded translation of verse 8. Note the underlined:

**“Do arise, O Elohim; do judge the earth;  
For it is You Yourself Who shall have the allotment of all the nations.”**

• *Psalm 82:8, CLV*

Who will “inherit all nations” or “have the allotment of all the nations”? We know from Psalm 89, attributed to Moses, YHWH is the supreme El among many, many Elohim:

**“For WHO in the heaven can be compared unto YHWH? WHO among the sons of the mighty [sons of Elim, a contraction of Elohim] can be likened unto YHWH? El is greatly to be feared in the assembly [Council] of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. O YHWH Elohim of hosts, who is a strong YAH like unto you? or to your faithfulness round about you?”**

• *Psalm 89:6–8*

<sup>1</sup> [“Elohim and the Son of God Part 1,” “Idolatry and God's Punishment.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015).

These **“sons of Elim”** are the same Elohim created by YHWH in Psalm 89:6, and later judged in Psalm 82.

## **Who Will Inherit All Nations?**

What are three possibilities as to who was to **“inherit all nations”** in Psalm 82?

**YHWH** already owns all the earth. He will not inherit what he already owns. YHWH is the one who grants title to another El and gives the earth to Him as an inheritance.

**Satan** offered the entire earth to Jesus. Satan claimed to have full authority to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. Note what Satan offered to Jesus. Did he have the authority to make his offer? Luke gives a longer version than Matthew does:

**“And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him,**

**‘All this power will I give you, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If you therefore will worship me, all shall be yours.’”**

• **Luke 4:5–7 (and Matthew 4:8–9)**

**Christ** is the one who shall inherit the earth (as you probably guessed), although few scholars acknowledge what seems obvious. Psalms 1 and 2 are widely understood to be a single messianic psalm. Note Psalm 2:8. King David will not fulfill this verse. The Concordant Literal Version gives a clearer translation than the King James Version:

**“Ask of Me, And I shall give the nations as Your allotment,  
And as Your holding, the limits of the earth.”**

In Zechariah 14:3–4, one called YHWH will split the Mount of Olives when He comes from heaven. We are told in Acts 1:9–12 that this person will be Christ who will be given the name YHWH, the name above every name. Five verses later in Zechariah 14:9, Concordant Literal Version: **“Then YHWH will come to be King over the entire earth. In that day YHWH shall come to be one, and His Name one.”** The apostle Paul tells us when God will accomplish this:

**“God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That [in the future] at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

• **Philippians 2:9–11**

## **Conclusion**

In Psalm 82 there are three varieties of *Elohim*. The **first** is YHWH, the El, the one who **“stands,”** holds court, and **“judges among the gods** [Elohim].” These **second** *Elohim* are the gods, plural, who are judged by YHWH.

The **third** *Elohim* is the one assigned in Psalm 82:8 to judge and inherit the earth, just as YHWH judges the Elohim, the “gods.” The third Elohim is Jesus Christ.

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