

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## PSALMS 78-82

On our trip to Germany we had the chilling experience of visiting one of the largest Nazi concentration camps in Germany – Buchenwald.

Though it was *a work camp* opposed to *a death camp*, 56,000 people died behind the fence. We entered the execution room where Jews were shot or hung from hooks. Their bodies were thrown on a conveyor and hoisted to the upper floor where they were burned in the crematories.

Early on, their ashes were mailed to their families in a can - sent C.O.D.

Here's a famous photograph of incarcerated Jews at Buchenwald...

Buchenwald was the only concentration camp visited by General Dwight Eisenhower. Seeing the dead, he walked to the roadside and vomited.

Later he wrote, "I have never felt able to describe my emotional reaction when I first came face to face with indisputable evidence of Nazi brutality and ruthless disregard of every shred of decency...I visited every nook and cranny of the camp because I felt it my duty to be in a position from then on to testify about these things in case there ever grew up at home the belief that the stories of Nazi brutality were just propaganda."

Eisenhower ordered reporters to be sent to document the atrocities.

Sadly, 60 years later Eisenhower's concern has become prophetic.

Holocaust deniers are popping up all over – from Roman Catholic bishop Richard Williamson to Iranian president, Ahmadinejad.

Such denials are regularly promoted in the Muslim world. In 2000, Hamas leaders called the holocaust an “**invented story with no basis.**”

Here's my point, “**Forget the lessons of history and you are destined to repeat them.**” History is a teacher as long as it's remembered... And not only is that true with history's horrors, it's also true with its pleasantries.

Psalm 78 implores Israel to learn from both its successes and failures.

**PSALM SEVENTY-EIGHT** begins, “**Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.**” In Matthew 13 Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God by using illustrations from nature.

And in the midst of his teaching he quotes Psalm 78:2-3. Just as Jesus used *parables from nature* to communicate truth, the psalmist, Asaph, uses *parables from history* to convey spiritual truths.

He speaks of these truths in verse 4 “**We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful**

works that He has done.”

Understand Christianity is not a collection of metaphysical myths. It's a historical faith. God invaded time and space. He's worked in history.

In fact, “**history**” is “**His story**” – *and this is what OUR children need to know*. Don't just tell them God is all-powerful – describe how He put His power on display – illustrate. To a child a picture is worth a 1000 words.

“For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments...” The next generation of Jews should realize how instrumental God was in their past, so they'll put their faith in Him in the future. “**That the generation to come might... set their hope in God...**”

The great danger is to forget! We're astonished the Jews could ever forget the parting of the Red Sea or God bringing water from a rock – yet we are just as guilty of forgetting God's past work in our lives.

Always remember, “**The devil wants us to remember the things we need to forget and forget the things we need to remember.**” As Christians we have a responsibility to ourselves and our kids... to remember...

The younger generation should recall God's work - so they're not “**like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious**”

generation, a generation that did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Verse 9 “The children of Ephraim (one of the tribes of Israel), being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God; they refused to walk in His law, and forgot His works and His wonders that He had shown them. Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.”

“Zoan” was the Hebrew name for the Egyptian city of “Tanis.” It was third most important city behind Memphis and Thebes. Remember, in the fictional film, Indiana Jones found the Ark in the ruins of Tanis.

Here Asaph remembers the plagues God worked in Egypt.

“He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; and He made the waters stand up like a heap.” Charlton Heston raised his staff and the sea peeled back. The water stood up like heaps of wheat.

“In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.” As they journeyed through the wilderness on their way to Mount Sinai God’s GPS was a cloud by day and a fire by night.

“He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths. He also brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.” God busted open rocks and revealed subterranean springs. God worked miracles in the desert sands.

And how did the Jews respond? “But they sinned even more against Him By rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy.”

Remember Israel’s ingratitude. God provided a daily diet of miracle manna. The word “*manna*” means “*what is it?*” It was grainy and white. Numbers 11:7 tells us it looked like a white seed. *I say it was grits!*

But Israel hungered for tastier vittles – “food of their fancy” – these are the dishes cooked up on the food channel - leeks and onions from Egypt.

“Yes, they spoke against God: they said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” *At least add a little meat to the diet.*

Evidently, God deliberately made manna to taste bland. He didn’t want Israel to fall in love with *physical pleasures*. He wanted His people to be *spiritually oriented*. Food is just body fuel. God’s Word is the soul food.

Deuteronomy 8:3 says God fed Israel manna to humble them, and teach that “man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” The wilderness menu was God’s way of creating an appetite for spiritual not physical delights.

But Israel failed to learn the lesson. “Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious; so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel, because they

did not believe in God, and did not trust in His salvation. Yet He had commanded the clouds above, and opened the doors of heaven, had rained down manna on them to eat, and given them of the bread of heaven. Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.” Notice the manna is referred to as “angels’ food.” Evidently, one of heaven’s staples is this manna. It is angelic munchies. It’s heavenly.

But Israel didn’t like its taste and wanted to swap it for beef jerky.

Verse 26 “He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; and by His power He brought in the south wind. He also rained meat on them like the dust, feathered fowl like the sand of the seas; and He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.” God *quelled* their hunger with *quail*. Game flew into camp three feet off the ground – about the height of a good fastball. The people were able to knock them down

“So they ate and were well filled, for He gave them their own desire.”

God promised the Jews quail on the menu for a whole month. If it was meat they wanted, God would give them meat – not once or twice, but for 30 days... until it was coming out their nostrils - until they were sick of it!

Yet when the quail came the Jews acted like bird brains. They were greedy and grabbed up carcasses as if there was a limited supply.

They refused to trust God, and He judged them while they chewed.

Verse 30 They were not deprived of their craving; but while their food was still in their mouths, the wrath of God came against them, and slew the stoutest of them, and struck down the choice men of Israel.

“In spite of this they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works. Therefore their days He consumed in futility, and their years in fear.” God administers two types of judgment – active and passive.

God’s **active judgment** is direct intervention – like a lightning bolt from heaven. Whereas His **passive judgment**, is when God turns you over to sin. He allows you to live in your rebellion and reap its consequences.

Israel not only suffered God’s active judgment - He gave them over to days of futility and years of fear. At times God leaves you in your misery.

Verses 34-37 sum up Israel’s painful past...

“When He slew them, then they sought Him; and they returned and sought diligently for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue; for their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.”

They were punished for their sin. They repented – only to fall back into the same sin. They were good at mouthing allegiance, but had no follow through. Sadly, Israel’s history was a series of broken promises.

Hey, how does your spiritual history read?

Verse 38 “But (God), being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath; for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again.”

Though Israel was faithless to God – God proved faithful to Israel.

He got angry when Israel bucked His will, just as He gets angry when we do the same, but God was merciful. He didn't stir up “all His wrath.”

God took into account human fragility. If God wanted to squish us like bugs whenever we failed, He'd be a tap dancer. All we are is a warm puff of breath on a cold morning. We're full of hot air... just a glorified burp.

Notice too how the verse 39 refutes reincarnation. Man is “a breath that passes away and does not come again.” There're no second cracks at life.

It's been said, “Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness because, like most men, Moses, was too proud to stop and ask for directions.”

Verse 40 provides a better summation, “How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”

The Hebrew word translated “limited” means “to scratch off.” Since Israel chose to *grumble at God* rather than *trust in God* - the Lord scratched off blessings He intended to give



them. The older generation died in the wilderness having never entered the Promised Land.

I'm sure you know the definition of an **oxymoron**. It's a statement that appears contradictory, yet actually makes sense. I collect oxymorons...

Here are a few of my favorites, "plastic glass, working vacation, good grief, fresh prune, pretty ugly, smart bomb, medal woods, temporary tax increase, government organization, female logic, political promise."

But verse 41 is the mother of all oxymorons! The Hebrews "**limited the Holy One of Israel**" - they *limited the God who has no limits*.

They *limited the Unlimitable* by their chronic complaining!

Read the book of Numbers and you'll discover the wilderness Hebrews had three basic complaints... they grumbled about the **manna, Moses, and their mission** – *the menu, the man of God, and the marching orders*.

Be careful lest you grumble about the same trifecta. Israel's problem was unbelief. They didn't trust God... to **provide** what they needed - to **guide** through their leader Moses – and to **override** the obstacles.

A critical spirit will stifle God's blessing and your effectiveness.

Verse 42 continues, "**They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy, when He worked His signs in Egypt, and His wonders in the field of Zoan; turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, that**

they could not drink.” He recounts the 10 plagues.

“He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them. He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, and their labor to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. He also gave up their cattle to the hail, and their flocks to fiery lightning. He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, by sending angels of destruction among them.

He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, but gave their life over to the plague, and destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, the first of their strength in the tents of Ham.” Ham was Noah’s son that settled in Africa. Genesis 10 charts the descendents of Ham. One of his sons was named “*Mizraim*” – which is the biblical name for Egypt.

“But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock; and He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And He brought them to His holy border, this mountain which His right hand had acquired.

He also drove out the nations before them, allotted them an inheritance by survey, and made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.

Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, and did not keep His testimonies, but turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.” They ceased to shoot straight.

“For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, and

moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.” The high places were unsanctioned places of worship that invariably either were prompted or led to idolatry.

When God heard this, He was furious, and greatly abhorred Israel, so that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent He had placed among men, and delivered His strength into captivity, and His glory into the enemy's hand.” 1 Samuel 4 tells of the Philistines’ defeat of Israel.

Hophni and Phineas, sons of the High Priest Eli, took the Ark into battle at Aphek. They trusted in the things of God rather than God Himself. And as a result, the Ark fell into Philistine hands. The Tabernacle was razed.

It was a dark day in the history of Israel.

“He also gave His people over to the sword, and was furious with His inheritance. The fire consumed their young men, and their maidens were not given in marriage. Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.” Israel suffered a crushing defeat.

“Then...” Twenty years later Samuel led the nation in the battle of Mizpah, and beat back the Philistines hordes. He liberated Israel.

But the way it happened was sudden and spontaneous. “Then the Lord awoke as from sleep...” This is obviously a metaphor...Psalm 121:4 reads, “He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” God doesn’t have a body that needs sleep. He never shuts His eyes or loses consciousness.

Yet at the battle of Mizpah it was as if God said, “Enough is enough.”

“Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine.” Here’s some bizarre imagery. I’ll bet you didn’t know the Bible depicts God as a drunk soldier.

A soldier – with a gun - under the influence - has no fear or caution.

It was with that kind of abandon that God defeated the Philistines. “And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach.”

Verse 67, “Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.” During the period of the Judges, Ephraim was the leading tribe in Israel. Joshua was from the family of Joseph and his son, Ephraim.

But when the Ark was returned to Israel it was no longer housed in Shiloh, within the boundaries of the tribe of Ephraim - but in Judah.

David brought it up to his new capitol, Jerusalem in Judah.

“And He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which He has established forever.” This sanctuary was the Temple King Solomon built.

“He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds...”

You’ll recall David was a King, a warrior, a general, a musician, and a prophet, but his most important job was that of God’s servant.

God took David “From following the ewes that had young He

brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.

So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.”

David went from being a shepherd of sheep to shepherding a nation. *And I love his equipment...*

“Integrity of heart” and “skillfulness of hands” – a great combination! Every leader needs heart and hands – both integrity and skill.

**PSALM SEVENTY-NINE** leaps 400 years from the time of David to the fall of Jerusalem. It was probably written by an exiled Jew in Babylon – mourning the sacking of the city and the destruction of the Temple.

This Asaph is mourning the nation's plight, and pondering her future.

Verse 1, “O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; they have laid Jerusalem in heaps.”

The destruction of the Temple took place on August 6, 586 BC.

The Jerusalem crime scene was gruesome... “The dead bodies of Your servants they have given as food for the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth. Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.”

The most humiliating and shameful event to befall a Jew is the inability to give a loved one a decent burial. Here dead

bodies lay in the streets.

“We have become a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and derision to those who are around us. How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You, and on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.

For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

“Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low.”

God’s mercies are like a good fastball – fast and low. There’s no limit to how low God’s grace will go. No matter the shame and disgraced you’ve caused, no one is so low that God won’t forgive and show mercy.

And His mercies are speedy. They run a 4.2 - 40 yard dash. God’s mercy sprints when necessary. “Mercy travels at the speed of need.”

Verse 9 “Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name's sake!”

This was a problem. With the Temple in ruins where could they offer a sacrifice and atone or cover their sins? The ultimate answer was Jesus.

“Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight the avenging

of the blood of Your servants which has been shed.” The Babylonians barged into the courts of the Temple looking for a carved and molded image. They were idolaters.

They shouted, “Where is their God?” - mocking the Jews for their faith. The pagan Babylonians had no idea they were standing in His presence.

Here the psalmist cries out for God to avenge His name!

“Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You; according to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are appointed to die; and return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom their reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.” Here’s another of the imprecatory psalms. Asaph calls for a curse on his enemies.

These psalms are born out of the Jewish sense of justice.

It’s the same instinct that rises up in us when we watch the 6:00 news, and see crime after crime against innocent people. *Where’s the justice?*

He concludes, “So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth Your praise to all generations.”

In the preface to **PSALM EIGHTY** we’re told it is “Set to The Lilies.” Thus it may’ve been sung in the spring of the year – at Passover.

“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!” In the OT the shepherd of Israel was Jehovah God - in the NT,

John 10, the Good Shepherd is Jesus. Apparently it was Jesus who dwelled between the cherubim.

Remember the centerpiece in the Temple was the Ark of the Covenant.

It was covered with a golden lid (the mercy seat). On the lid were two golden angels, or cherubs. And between the angels a visible, tangible manifestation of the glory of God resided - called the *Shekinah*.

This is important because it's the scene we'll see in heaven. The Bible tells us the Ark of the Covenant was a model of God's throne in heaven.

**“Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh (all tribes of Israel), stir up Your strength, and come and save us! Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!”** He's asking God to smile on us.

**O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in great measure. You have made us a strife to our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved! You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.”** Psalm 80 was written at a time of trouble.

Israel was a vine. God plucked her out of Egypt, and planted her in the Promised Land. For a time He removed His hedge of protection - and the nations helped themselves to Israel's fruit. They pillaged and plundered.



Judaism was uprooted because it failed to produce spiritual fruit.

Today, the Jewish vine has been replaced by Jesus - John 15 calls Him the "true vine." Jesus says, "I am the Vine and you are the branches."

The only way to grow and produce spiritual fruit is to be grafted into Jesus. *A relationship with Jesus* does what *Jewish religion* failed to do.

The psalmist continues, "You prepared room for it, and caused it to take deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were covered with its shadow, and the mighty cedars with its boughs. She sent out her boughs to the Sea, and her branches to the River." Under the reign of David and Solomon Israel expanded its borders and rose to prominence.

The vine spread out and covered the land... Then tragedy struck...

"Why have You broken down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit? The boar out of the woods uproots it, and the wild beast of the field devours it." Wild boars were feeding on Israel.

"Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see, and visit this vine and the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself. It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself." - a

reference to the king.

“Then we will not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!” Psalm 80 is a Messianic psalm.

In the OT the Branch was a name used by the prophets for the coming Messiah. Jesus is called the “**Branch of Righteousness.**” Jeremiah 23 and 33, Isaiah 11, Zechariah 3:8 and 6:12 are a few of the verses.

**PSALM EIGHTY-ONE** begins, “Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. Raise a song and strike the timbrel (or tambourine), the pleasant harp with the lute.” Remember Psalm 80 was written by Asaph – a Temple worship leader. He’s directing praise.

Asaph Blevins is orchestrating when and how the timbrel is played.

We once had a lady that brought her own tambourine to church and played it when she pleased. We ended her career before it began.

Remember this is the worship leader with the timbrel.

Verse 3 “**Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day.**” The Jews celebrated a monthly or lunar feast – the Feast of the New Moon. It was a time to worship.

From ancient times calendars were based on the phases of the moon.

Tonight we have a wedding. In ancient Babylon wedding feasts lasted a whole month. The wedding was a month-long party where the participants drank mead – or a honey wine. This is why it was called the *honeymoon*.

I hope Michael and Cyndi don't drink wine for a month, but I do hope they experience a wine-like joy, and the honeymoon never ends.

For the Jews the Feast of the New Moon was “a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob. This He established in Joseph as a testimony, when He went throughout the land of Egypt, where I heard a language I did not understand.” The monthly feast dated back to Israel's Egyptian bondage.

"I removed his shoulder from the burden; His hands were freed from the baskets. You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

"Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! There shall be no foreign god among you; nor shall you worship any foreign god. I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." What an invitation! God promises to spoon feed us. As a parent tells his child, “*open wide...*”

Yet I know people with clinched jaw and buttoned lips. They refuse to open up to God. They serve foreign gods or try to do it themselves.

They're missing out on tremendous blessing. God's spoon is full.

Verse 11 "But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels. Remember God's *active* and *passive* judgment.

Here God gives "them over to their own stubborn heart." This is a terrible price to pay. We often overlook the dangers from which we're spared. When God stops intervening we taste our own foolishness.

God cries out from a broken heart. "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!" God loves us passionately and hates to see us make it more difficult on ourselves than it has to be.

Verse 14 "I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries. The haters of the LORD would pretend submission to Him, but their fate would endure forever.

He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you." Blessings untold could've belonged to Israel if they'd just walked in God's ways.

Instead they bristled up in stubbornness and rebellion – and limited God. You can sum up their history in two words, "blown opportunities."

**PSALM EIGHTY-TWO...** Imagine a judge pocketing bribes - bullying witnesses - bending justice to suit himself – when suddenly he finds himself on trial. God sits at the bench... and judges the judge.

Welcome to Psalm 82... “God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.” Notice, Israel’s judiciary is referred to as gods with a little “g.” The Hebrew word translated “gods” means “mighty ones.”

The position of a judge was a sacred trust that only God could bestow. These judges represented God and administered His Law.

When Moses appointed 70 men to help him judge the people the Spirit of God came upon them. Their decisions were to be inspired by God.

Here’s a quote. “The judge’s decision was to be based on the *Law of God*, guided by the *Mind of God*, and derived through the *Spirit of God*.”

The office of judge was the most "godlike" position in ancient Israel.

Sadly, American courts no longer sense any allegiance to God. They’ve been completely secularized. Often they try to protect us *from* God.

The Bible has always been the foundation for western jurisprudence.

The Christian sense of justice permeates our courts. The idea of inalienable rights and personal property are biblical concepts.

When Christian influence wanes, true justice suffers a death blow.

Verse 2 begins God’s critique of Israel’s judiciary. “How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked?”

Selah

Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.

They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are unstable.

I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High."

The Mormons, along with other cults and new age groups, use this verse to teach that man can become a God. He is his own deity.

This is a popular proof-text for the cultist. But look at the next verse. Verse 7, "But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes."

Rather than teach our potential for deity the purpose of Psalm 82 is to remind us of our mortality. The people the psalmist calls "gods" will "die like men." These guys *were* men, *will be* men, and *will die* as men.

The judges sit in God's seat - but they never gain God's nature – and they shouldn't be playing God. Recall the desire to become a god was the sin that caused Satan to fall from heaven – and the lie Satan sold to Eve.

There is only one God... and we should all be glad that *He* is not *me*!

Verse 8 "Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit

**all nations.”** Even the judges have judge. The one, true God will judge all nations.