

# Psalms 82:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

## Analysis

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**How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.** God's rhetorical question indicts corrupt judges with devastating directness. "**How long**" (אֲדַמַּתַּי/ad-matai) expresses divine patience approaching its limit. God has endured injustice, giving opportunity for repentance, but judgment draws near. This echoes prophetic refrains (Habakkuk 1:2, Revelation 6:10) crying out against prolonged wickedness.

**"Judge unjustly"** (תִּשְׁפֹּטוּ-אֵוֶל/tishpetu-avel) contradicts the fundamental purpose of judges. Avel denotes perversion, injustice, unrighteousness—judging becomes its opposite when personal gain or favoritism corrupts verdicts. Judges called to execute God's justice instead perpetrate injustice, a damnable inversion.

**"Accept the persons of the wicked"** (פְּנֵי-רֹשָׁעִים תִּשְׂאוּ/penei-resha'im tis'u) means showing partiality based on status rather than truth. Literally "lifting up the face," this phrase denotes favoring certain parties—the wealthy, powerful, or connected—while denying justice to the poor and powerless. Deuteronomy 1:17 and 16:19 explicitly forbid such partiality. "**Selah**" punctuates this damning question, demanding contemplation of judicial corruption's gravity.

## Historical Context

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Psalms 82 depicts God presiding over a divine council, judging those appointed to judge (whether human magistrates or angelic beings delegated authority—

## Related Passages

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

2

for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

**Proverbs 18:5** (Righteousness): It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

**Galatians 2:6** (Parallel theme): But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:

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