

*1 A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.*

*6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.*

*7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. (Psalm 82)*

This passage, which is intended to humble and bring men of power under rein and accountability, is seized upon by either ignorant or dishonest preachers, to do precisely the opposite. We are not told that men obtain a state by means of regeneration whereby we share godhood. There is, and can be, only one Eternal Almighty Sovereign God.

The word translated “gods” is the Hebrew *elohim*, a plural noun meaning “mighty ones,” which is indeed translated often as God. That is understandable, if we consider that we often use words like that of God when we say “the Almighty.” “Almighty” or “The Mighty” is one of the descriptions of God that is often used as a Name for Him. But the mighty is also used to refer to mortal men, which is evidently the case here.

Some men, through the providence of God, are accorded positions of might and power on this earth. They have it within their power to make decisions, judgments, or take actions that acutely impact the lives of others. In fact, at certain times and in particular circumstances, any and all of us find ourselves in a position where our decision or action holds the fate of other persons. We are warned in this passage, that when such circumstances arise, that *God* is present, and we shall have to give account to Him for our actions. We may be in a position of might and power for a season, or for most of our lives, but just as certainly as we live and act, we shall surely fall and die like those over which we had power and sway.

That one single consideration, if taken soberly and seriously by all; if the main consideration of our decisions were, “How shall I answer to God for what I have done to one of His creatures?” it would bring to an end all abuse of human power, and it would be a powerful sanctifying influence upon all of us.

-C.M.