

You May Be Gods, but Can You Claim

From Psalm 58



1. ¹You may be gods, but can you claim That you speak right-eous-ness?

2. ³The wick-ed from their day of birth Are stran-gers to the way;

3. ⁶O God, in-side their o-pened mouths Break off their cru-el teeth;

4. ⁸Let them be like the snails that melt A-long the course they run;

5. ¹⁰The just re-joi-ces when he sees That ven-geance is com-plete,

melody

And do you judge the sons of men In truth and up-right-ness?

They from the womb come speak-ing lies; They wan-der far a-stray.

The fangs of these young li-ons, LORD, Tear out by roots be-neath.

Or like one pre-ma-ture-ly born Who ne-ver sees the sun.

For in the blood of wick-ed men He then will wash his feet.

⁹No, e-ven in your ver-y heart, You wick-ed-ness pro-duce;

¹⁰They have the ven-om of a snake, They have an ad-der's ear

¹¹Let them like run-off wat-ers be That leave the ground soon dry.

¹²They are like blaz-ing thorns which You Be-neath Your ket-tles lay.

¹³They'll say, "There sure-ly is re-ward For right-eous ones of worth;

On earth you weigh out with your hands Your vi-o-lent a-buse.

Which they have closed to charmer's songs; Skilled charm-ers they'll not hear.

Let ar-rows that he aims be-come Like head-less shafts that fly.

Whose heat is scarce-ly felt be-fore A wind sweeps them a-way.

There sure-ly is a liv-ing God Who jud-ges in the earth."

Music: William Billings (1746–1800)

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