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On January 12th, 2023, I visited chat.openai.com, an automatic document generation site driven by artificial intelligence, posing the two queries below.

**Explain the biblical trope "the cloud rider" with reference to the Ugaritic Ba'al Cycle.**

The "cloud rider" is a biblical trope that refers to a god or deity who travels in a chariot or on a cloud. This trope is found in the Ugaritic Ba'al Cycle, an ancient Canaanite religious text that tells the story of the god Ba'al and his battles against the sea god Yamm. In the text, Ba'al is described as riding on a chariot pulled by four horses, and is often depicted as a warrior god who defeats his enemies while riding in the clouds. This imagery of a god riding in the clouds is a common motif in ancient Near Eastern literature and is also found in the Bible, where it is used to describe God or angels.

**According to Psalm 82, who are the gods, what is their purpose, and why are they condemned?**

According to Psalm 82, the gods referred to in the text are members of the divine council, a group of deities who were believed in ancient Near Eastern cultures to assist and advise the chief god in the administration of the world. The purpose of these gods is to act as judges and to uphold justice in the world.

The Psalmist wrote "God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment" (Psalm 82:1). The psalmist goes on to accuse these gods of injustice and corruption, stating that they "give unjust judgment and show partiality to the wicked" (Psalm 82:2). The psalmist then calls on God to judge these gods and to take action against them, saying "Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!" (Psalm 82:8).

The Psalmist accuses the gods of failing in their purpose of upholding justice and condemns them for their unjust actions. The psalmist calls on the God of Israel to intervene and to judge these gods, to restore order and justice in the world. In this sense, the Psalm is a call for God to intervene in the affairs of the world, and to take action against those who fail to uphold justice.