

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



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The Week of May 1, 2022

Life is Hard, God is Good
When Your Worship is on Trial
Psalm 50

Asaph wrote a total of twelve psalms. The only psalm attributed to him that appears outside of Psalms 73-83 is Psalm 50. It is appropriate that the chief worship leader under David and Solomon would pen a profoundly prophetic psalm about true worship.

Worship is more than singing. Worship is declaring praises to His name by making Him the center of our lives. However, sometimes our idea of worship gets twisted and God is no longer our primary focus. In this psalm, God appears in an awesome vision to judge His people and the quality of their worship.

- As you read Psalm 50 underline the three names for God in verse 1.
- Bracket down the left side of verses 1-6 and write: *Courtroom Summons*.
- Bracket down the left side of verses 7-15 and write: *God Subpoenas Israel*.
- Bracket down the left side of verses 16-23 and write: *Verdict for Forgetting God*.

¹ The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.
⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge! Selah
⁷ "Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.
¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.
¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.
¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”
¹⁶ But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to recite my statutes
or take my covenant on your lips?
¹⁷ For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you.
¹⁸ If you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
and you keep company with adulterers.
¹⁹ “You give your mouth free rein for evil,
and your tongue frames deceit.
²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother;
you slander your own mother’s son.
²¹ These things you have done, and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one like yourself.
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
²² “Mark this, then, you who forget God,
lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
²³ The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;
to one who orders his way rightly
I will show the salvation of God!”

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

1. Psalm 50 is a courtroom drama. What evidence do you find throughout the psalm to support this?
2. What announcement introduces the theme of the psalm in verses 1-6?
3. Verse 8 states that God did not rebuke Israel for offering sacrifices continually. He rebuked them for misunderstanding the reason for making sacrifices. What absurd conclusions about sacrifices did they make? How did God correct them?

4. Review verses 8-15. What does the Lord desire from His people?

5. What does it mean for Christians today to offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving?

6. Who are the wicked as designated in verse 16? Support your answer from what follows in verses 17-23.

7. Who does God rebuke in the conclusion of this psalm?

8. What promises can we claim from this psalm?

9. What changes do you need to make in order to place God at the center of your life?

