

Psalm 50

- Asaph was King David's chief musician, he wrote this Psalm.

As I read it I'm very much reminded of:

2 Peter 1:20-21 ²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

- I know that you already know this; but what we're holding in our hands, what we're reading, what we're studying is God breathed, it is in truth the very Word of God. That is thrilling!
- There was an occasion when Jesus was disputing with the religious leaders, the Pharisees and He said to them:

John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me."

- Jesus was declaring that the Old Testament scriptures were actually testifying of Him.

Similarly:

Hebrews 10:7 "Then said I, lo, I come in the volume of the book it is written of Me,.. " (Psalm 40:7)

- Psalm 50 is an example of that, it is actually a reference to the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, when He will come back to judge the world.
- We know that His 2nd coming will be preceded by a period of great tribulation as it is described in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation.

Daniel 7:9-10 ⁹I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. ¹⁰A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands (mil's) ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand (100 mil) stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

- When those books are opened, you want to make sure that your name is written there in the Lamb's book of life!

V: 1 "The Mighty God" - "El Elohim" - the creative name, or the name used in the creation of all things - "In the beginning God (Elohim), created the heavens and the earth."

“The mighty God, even the Lord...” - “Yahweh” - the great “I AM” - The God of the covenant, the becoming One.

- Two powerful titles or names emphasizing His power and authority, proclaiming that He has spoken - so we should listen to Him. He has spoken and set things in order, like the rising of the sun and the going down thereof.
- It is when we go against God’s Word, when we go against His order of things that we introduce confusion.

1 Corinthians 14:33 “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

- We live in a pretty confused world because so many have rejected the authority of God’s Word in their lives. Here the Psalmist draws our attention to the authority and the power of God - and as a result he points out the respect and admiration, the reverence that we should have for what he says.

V: 2 *“Out of Zion...”* - not Mecca, not Salt Lake City, not Rome, or New York City - out of Zion - which is referred to as the *“perfection of beauty...”* Why such a glamorous, or perhaps exaggerated type description? Because that’s the one city in all the earth that God put His name to, where He would reside - where as it states here that *“God hath shined”* - where His glory has shined.

God hath shined in His Son:

John 1:4 “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world...”

Speaking of Jesus

Hebrews 1:3 “Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person,...”

V: 3 *“Our God shall come...”* Our God is coming back for us, which is true, but by this time He’ll be coming back with us!

There have been and always will be scoffers:

2 Peter 3:4-5 “⁴And saying, where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of,...”

- Peter declares that the Lord is coming back just as this Psalm does. When He comes He won’t be silent, He won’t hold back - He will come back in judgment as a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

- The imagery here is of the fire and storm that goes before our God, He will come back on that fearsome day of judgment.
- This describes the great tribulation that will precede the coming of Christ. The next judgment will be a judgement of fire upon the earth. God judged the earth once with a flood, the flood of Noah. He promised that He would not judge the world again in the same way, with a flood, but that He would again judge the world, but this time with fire.

2 Peter 3:7 “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

V: 4-5 As God, the Great Judge of all things, He calls heaven and earth, all of creation to stand before Him, to give an account, to be judged.

Matthew 25:32 “And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.”

- In the midst of all of that He says “gather “*My*” saints,” - My holy ones, My consecrated ones those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice - gather them unto Me.
- Those who’ve made a covenant with God by sacrifice - that is the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, those who have entered into a covenant with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Isn’t that exactly what we’ve done? Trusting in the shed blood of Jesus for our salvation, our redemption?

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.”

- OT covenant of the Law, NT covenant of grace? No, NT is the covenant of blood.

Luke 22:20 “... This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”

- Where are they gathered to? Not “before” God as those who would be judged, but “**unto God**” - because our sins have already been judged on the cross of Jesus Christ, He’s already paid the price for our sins. So we’re drawn unto or into that protected place.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,”

- His “holy ones” those who’ve made a covenant with Him are not appointed to wrath:

2 Peter 2:9 “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

- We want to be those whom He calls unto Himself, “unto Him.”

Psalm 91:1-2 “¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”

V: 6 The heavens, and all of creation for that matter declare the righteousness of God:

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God;...”

- God is judge Himself - He is the only true and legitimate judge, judge of all things. He is and we’re not...

“*Selah*” - think about that, consider it, ponder it, meditate on that.

V: 7-11 The Psalm takes a turn here as the Lord speaks through Asaph, it turns to the first person, “I” - as God speaks more directly - prophesying directly. “I”

“⁷*Hear, O My people...*” - He’s speaking to believers:

- Listen carefully - understand who you are dealing with, understand who it is that is speaking to you: “... *I am God, even thy God.*”
- ⁸I’m not rebuking you or reproving you for your sacrifices and offerings which you’ve offered continually - the issue is your heart in offering them.
- The sacrifices were commanded by God in Leviticus, but the people had seeming difficulty in keeping a Godly perspective on the nature and purposes of the sacrifices.
- God didn’t and doesn’t need our sacrifices and offerings - he already owns the cattle on a thousand hills and all the beasts and birds of the fields - it wasn’t about His needs.

- The sacrifices were for their sakes, and for ours, so that they would understand that sin equals death, and that atonement - “at one ment” - justification - “just as if it never happened - ment” - cleansing / forgiveness only comes by blood.
- In the case of the sacrifices the blood pointed to the blood of the Lamb that would cleanse us from all our sin.

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission.”

- God already owns all the cattle and so on, He doesn’t want or need our “wealth” he want our hearts; what He desires is true worship:

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

V: 12-15 God doesn’t hunger for food, He hungers for the righteousness of His people.

- That starts with brokenness and humility:

David writes in the next Psalm:

Psalm 51:16-17 ¹⁶For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite hear, O God, Thou wilt not despise.”

- “¹⁴*Offer...*” this is a command, a call to action - Offer to God thanksgiving... pay your vows, do what you said you would do.
- God is looking for praise and thanksgiving, for grateful hearts. He’s looking for those who would call upon Him and “pay their vows.”

Psalm 116:12-14 “¹²What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.”

- It pleases God when we are thankful and when we praise Him.

Hebrews 13:15 “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

V: 7-15 The Lord has been addressing those religious practitioners whose major emphasis is on the outward and external observances of the ceremonial law who had missed the intent of it.

Later Paul would write in a similar vein:

2 Corinthians 3:6 “Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

- We have to be careful not to just focus on the formalities, the outward appearance of things and not be dealing with the inward necessities of the Spirit.

Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of the day for just that:

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

V:16-23 Are spoken to the wicked who haven't and don't put Gods commandments into practice in everyday life.

2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

V: 16-17 God is calling them out on their hypocrisy - who are you to profess My Word, or My Covenant? You're not keeping either.

- You don't listen to Me, you hate instruction, and turn your back on My Word.
- He's describing the rebellious person who is living disobediently but still claiming promises and quoting Scripture?

Romans 2:21-24 “²¹Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²²Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? Thou that abhorrest idols, doth thou commit sacrilege? ²³Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? ²⁴For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you...”

- People that live in the flesh, but come to church and wax all spiritual.
- The believers attitude toward evil is to be one of total rejection:

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

1 John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

V: 18 In this psalm the Lord brings a legal case against His people for violations of the covenant.

- Accusation: You've consented with, joined with, agreed with thieves, you've been partakers with and accepting of adulterers.

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived: evil communications / company corrupt good manner / habits."

- Partakers with adulterers: There are times when we're called to separate from people.

1 Corinthians 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

- That's the accusation: you've been hanging out with, agreeing with thieves, you've been partaking with adulterers, the immoral - "you've ignored My Word."

Paul warns:

Romans 1:32 "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do they do such things, but they have pleasure in them that do them."

V: 19 "Liar, liar!" Question: how did you know they were lying? Answer: Their lips were moving.

Psalms 51:6 "Behold, thou desireth truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

- It's all about truth because He is the God of truth.

V: 20-22 You slander your brother, "slander" is speaking things about people that are both malicious and false.

Titus 3:2 "... speak evil of no man..."

James 3:8-10 "8But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

- 21People then, and people now have mistaken the silence of God for blindness or impotence, or worse even they've mistaken His silence for approval of God.

- God will not always be silent, He will make things right, He will set things in order in His time.

Romans 12:19 "... vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

V: 22 Then He says, think about this, consider this - those of you who have written God off, those who have discounted God - think carefully what you do lest as he says "... lest I tear you in pieces..." That's strong language, pretty direct.

- *"There won't be any that can deliver you out of My hand."*

Deuteronomy 32:39 "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand." God is sovereign!

V: 23 But on the contrary: Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me: God is glorified through praise and worship. This is pleasing to God.

- He who orders his behavior aright, correctly - the NIV uses the phrase "Whoever prepares the way... will I show the Salvation of God."
- We need to prepare the way, to plan ahead, to be ready - to come to God on His terms. We need to confess our sin, walk rightly, and worship Him.

Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee."