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Psalm 50

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 50.

Topics.

- The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth.
- Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- Gather my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!
- The beasts and cattle on a thousand hills are mine.
- Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and vows to the Most High.
- What right has the wicked to recite God's covenant on their lips?
- Those who have thankful hearts and do what is right glorify God.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

1

BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

PSALM 50:1

A Psalm of Asaph.

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and Summons the Earth.

- **Psalm 50:1:** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

The trumpet voice of God calls all the dwellers upon of earth to the grandeur of God's divine judgment. The focus of this Psalm is upon the glory of God and the great Day of Judgment. All the faithful are given instruction and encouragement on the nature of true worship while the wicked are given a warning of judgment. The word mighty comes from the Hebrew word ('el) shortened from Hebrew ('ayil) it means mighty in strength and power and is especially used of the Almighty God, but is also used of any deity (i.e., a god, a great idol and of one who is mighty). In the context of this verse the title, "The Mighty One, God the LORD," embraces all of the following:

- Yahweh and Jehovah, for these are the Hebrew names of Israel's God.
- The great, I AM the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob for this is God's name forever. (Exodus 3:13-15)
- The infinite, Almighty God of gods, the Lord the self-existent One.
- Elohim the God of gods the supreme Lord of heaven and earth.

- The eternal lawgiver and judge of men and angels who changes not.
- The true God to whom the greatest kings and potentates are all subjects.

From sunrise to sunset: (or from the east to the west) from the place where the sun seems to rise, to the place where it seems to set which covers all-the world. The following verses show that this is a common expression used of the operation, action and management of God's power and mercy.

- As far as *the east is from the west*, so far does God remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12).
- From *the rising of the sun to its setting*, the name of the LORD is to be praised! (Psalm 113:3).
- I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, *from the rising of the sun*, and he shall call upon my name; he shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. (Isaiah 41:25).
- That people may know, *from the rising of the sun and from the west*, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:6).
- So they shall fear the name of the LORD *from the west*, and his glory *from the rising of the sun*; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives. (Isaiah 59:19).
- For *from the rising of the sun to its setting* my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 1:11).

The summons to the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting (v1) is made to all-the human race. The scene is imaginary as represented by the psalmist, but it is founded on a true representation of the universal judgment that will occur when all nations shall be summoned to appear before the final Judge spoken of in the following verses.

2

- Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (Matt. 25:32).
- Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-14).

The dominion of God extends over the whole earth and to all mankind His decree is directed toward the east and the west all humanity is bidden to hear the judgment of God who makes the sun to rise on every corner of the globe. The world by its rampant wickedness is provoking the great King to anger by ignoring His call and His ways?

PSALM 50:2

Out of Zion, the Perfection of Beauty, God Shines Forth.

- **Psalm 50:2:** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

God is represented not only as speaking to the earth, but also as coming forth to reveal the glory of his presence to an assembled universe. God of old dwelt in Zion among his chosen people, but here the beams of his splendour are described as shining forth upon all nations. In verse one the sun was spoken of as rising and setting, but here is a far brighter sun shining out of Zion. The majesty of God is most clear and eye-catching

not only among the faithful of Israel, but also amongst the faithful church. God's light not only shines amongst faithful Israel and the church, but also out of them. The faithful are made perfect in beauty by God's indwelling Spirit and love and though veiled now by the flesh will be seen by all when the Lord gathers them to himself and shines forth from amongst their midst.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth: (v2) ultimately refers the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 50:3-6

Gather My Faithful Ones, who Made a Covenant by Sacrifice!

- **Psalm 50:3-6:** Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest. ⁴He 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!" ⁶The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! *Selah*

The description of this majestic appearance of God resembles that of His giving the law to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai spoken of in the following verses.

- On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. (Exodus 19:16).
- Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off (Exodus 20:18).
- Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. (Deut. 32:1).

Our God comes: (v3) the idea is, that He who speaks is the true God; the Supreme Ruler of the universe. It is that God who has a right to call the world to judgment, and who has power to execute it. Now in this Psalm God is not just calling the nation Israel before Him, but all the inhabitants of the earth, from one end to the other to be witnesses of his proceedings in this judgment, between the righteous and the wicked. The psalmist is representing God as now speaking and as calling all dwellers on the earth to judgment. At this present time God's judgment is delayed, but when the cup of iniquity is overflowing God will once again intervene into human history in the following two ways:

1. The most splendid, exciting and breathtaking way for the faithful.
2. The most terrifying and fearful ways for the corrupt and the wicked who have denied His existence.

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This is perhaps one of the reasons the prophet Joel wrote:

- The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. ³²And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. (Joel 2:31-32).

A great day for those who call upon the name of the LORD, but terrible for those who do not.

My faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice: (v5) these words immediately embrace the nation of Israel who not only entered into the Old Testament covenant of Law with a sacrifice, but also kept it by sacrifices, but it is not limited to them only. New Testament believers enter into God's Covenant of Grace through the sacrifice of God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

The heavens declare his righteousness: (v6) carries the following three ideas:

1. Christ, the angels and God's word and all that is in heaven and from heaven is righteous.
2. The heavenly host, the sun, the moon and the stars declare God's power and righteousness.
3. The faithful of Israel and the faithful of the global church can be seen as manifesting heaven on earth in that they reflect the nature of God and Christ's good character in deeds and worship and are counted righteous, by their faith in Christ.

God himself is judge: (v6) the Bible speaks of a first resurrection and concerning it says, "Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power (Rev. 20:5-6). After a glorious new age on earth (the thousand years) there is another resurrection called the second at which God Himself is the judge. For further information concerning this second death see the notes following verse two under the title: "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth" (above). The faithful: who come into God's covenant of grace by faith in the Redeemer's atoning sacrifice refers to those who show the sincerity of their love by the outward manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, mercy, grace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and such like things) and trust in Christ's righteousness to be counted worthy and trust in God's grace for their salvation. The unfaithful: refers to those who though they confess to believe in Christ trust in their own self-effort and outward performances and in strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be counted righteous.

Whoever trusts in their own self efforts and works to be counted righteous not only denies all Christ achieved for them on the bloodstained cross of Calvary, but also makes his death count for nothing. God will accept all the services of those who seek him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who trust in His grace, but will reject the services of those who rest in their own outward performances. It is only by Christ's great sacrifice that God will accept anyone and count them righteous. His judgments will cut deep into the consciences and the thoughts of the mind of those who trust in their own self-righteousness nothing will be hidden from Him whose eternal eyes perceive the heart, the thoughts and motives of us all. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

He may judge his people: the focus of this Psalm is not just on judgment of the unbelieving wicked, but also judgment upon God's people such as:

- False prophets and teachers.
- Ministers who twist the Scriptures to their own advantage and who use their congregations as merchandise to line their own pockets
- Professors of the Christian faith, who appear righteous on Sundays, but live as they please every other day of the week giving no thought to how their life reflects on God's honour or Jesus good name.
- Those who trust in external and ceremonial performances to be counted righteous rather than trust in Christ's righteousness and God's grace.

PSALM 50:7-13

Beasts of the Forest and Cattle on a Thousand Hills are Mine.

- **Psalm 50:7-13:** "Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. ⁸Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. ⁹I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. ¹⁰For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹I 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. ¹³Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?"

I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds (v9) prior to this God has just told Israel that their sacrifices and burnt offerings are continually before Him (v8) these sacrifices refer to those sacrifices made upon the altar at the Temple in Jerusalem, now God is telling them no matter how many sacrifices they offer Him in their homes or in their fields He will not accept them. The only acceptable place for sacrifices was at the Temple of God. It appears the unfaithful of Israel were attempting to win God's favour by offering sacrifices from their homes and fields instead of at the Temple. God is telling them he does not need animal sacrifices since he owns them all. The reason God only accepted sacrifices at the Temple was because most of them became food for the Levitical Priesthood and their families. Any sacrifice made at a believer's home or in their fields robbed the Levitical Priesthood from food that was rightly theirs and they were dependant on many of these offerings for their food. Offering sacrifices to the priesthood was the same as offering them to the LORD since they were His ambassadors on earth before the people.

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PSALM 50:14-15

Offer to God a Sacrifice and Perform Vows to the Most High.

- **Psalm 50:14-15:** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

The offerings God wants from Israel is a heart of gratitude for all their blessings and for them to keep the promises they made at Mount Sinai and then He would answer their prayers and deliver them from their troubles. Many times, Israel rebelled against God and entered into gross sin, but still expected Him to hear their prayers and deliver them from their enemies. The LORD is saying, "Do what is right, be honest and thankful and then He will hear their prayers and deliver them from their

enemies and they will glorify Him.” This same principal of course applies to the faithful in Christ and the global church if we regularly attend church on Sundays, worship with hands raised and adhere to the churches particular religious customs and traditions, but live a lifestyle of indifference to God and the Lord Jesus Christ the rest of the week we should not expect God to hear our prayers or for His favour to be with us.

PSALM 50:16-22

What right has the Wicked to Recite God’s Covenant on their Lips?

- **Psalm 50:16-22:** But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips? ¹⁷For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. ¹⁸If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers. ¹⁹You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit. ²⁰You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. ²¹These 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. ²²Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!

The wicked in focus here are hypocritical priests and religious leaders of Israel, God is saying, "What right have they got to proclaim His words to others when they themselves:

- Hate discipline and have no respect for God’s word in their-own lives.
- Keep company with thieves and adulterers.
- Speak lies and deceit and against their own kin and those of their own faith.

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This same principal applies to those in the church today, it is a gross offense before God to stand behind an altar or pulpit and pretend to be holy while sharing God’s word and performing His services when outside of church they are living a lifestyle totally contrary to God’s laws and Christ’s teachings. Though judgment maybe delayed for many who live in this hypocritical manner it is almost certain if they do not heed God’s warning and change their corrupt ways that they will find themselves standing with the following group when the Lord returns.

- Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” ²³And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” (Matt. 7:21-23).
- Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” (Matt. 25:11).
- When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, open to us,” then he will answer you, “I do not know where you come from.” (Luke 13:25).

God words, “These things you have done and I have been silent, but now I rebuke you” (v21-22) shine a brilliant spotlight on two things:

1. The longsuffering patience of God, judgment is delayed, but not forgotten, eventually the cup of iniquity overflows and judgment replaces longsuffering.
2. By our corrupt behaviour we bring God’s judgment and wrath upon ourselves.

PSALM 50:23

Those who Have Thankful Hearts and do what is Right Glorify God.

- **Psalm 50:23:** The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

Those who have a heart filled with gratitude and thankfulness and who does what is right before God, before His Son and before mankind God will save to eternal life and everlasting happiness.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace