

PSALM 50 vs 1

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This is the 1st of 12 Psalms ascribed to Asaph, bearing this seer's name. In 2 Chronicles 29:30, Hezekiah ordered the Levites "to sing the words of David and of Asaph the seer" ... evidence the Spirit of God continues inspiring others to consider the ways of the Lord.

Divisions: the Lord is represented as summoning the whole earth to hear His declaration (1-6); He declares the nature of acceptable worship (7-15); accuses the ungodly (16-21); and closes court with both a threatening word, and a direction of grace. – Charles Spurgeon.



A Psalm of Asaph,

¹ The mighty God, the LORD,

El Elohim YHWH has spoken, and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² From Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine.

³ Our God will come, and not be silent: a fire before Him will devour, and all around Him will be exceedingly stormy;

⁴ calling to the heavens above, and to the earth, to judge His people.

⁵ Gather together those who love and trust Me; who make a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

⁶ The heavens declare His righteousness: for God, He is judge.

Selah, pause and think about it: in this interlude between the next thought; the Psalmist says: consider what you just heard, what you just read. The Lord God who created all things, is rising up. His dominion extends over the whole earth, and therefore to all mankind is His decree directed. From Zion, it's interesting the word: **Flock** and **Zion** share the same Hebrew root and always mean where the people of God gather. **Our God will come**: the psalmist speaks of standing in anticipation of the appearing of the Lord; He is coming, sooner than we can imagine; **3 days are still on His calendar, equal to Passover or Pentecost**.

⁷ Listen My people, I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you: I am God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I scold, because your burnt offerings continually before Me.

⁹ I will not take from your house a bull, nor from your folds a goat;

¹⁰ for every living thing of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountains: the beasts of the field are Mine.

¹² **If I was hungry, I would not tell you:** for the world is entirely Mine.

¹³ **Will I eat the flesh of cows, or drink the blood of goats?**

¹⁴ **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanks; and pay the Most High your vows:**

¹⁵ **and call to Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.**

Think about it: If He needed anything, He would not need to appeal to their scanty stalls and folds. Foolishly, they dreamed that cows with horns and hoofs could please the Lord, when indeed He sought for hearts and souls. They fancied that God needed these supplies and that if they fed His altar with their fat beasts, He would be content. So He says: I have somewhat against you: O **Israel** – you who claimed to be **ruled by God**; who have been greatly blessed above all the nations, to boast about their God, not to embezzle their blessing for personal gain. Historically it is interesting... how many criminals in finance and banking came from this House. **If I was hungry I would not tell you**; what a strange concept, a hungry God! Do men fancy that the Lord needs banners, and music, and incense, and fine linen? He knows all His creation and needs nothing – Charles Spurgeon.

¹⁶ **But to the wicked, God says,**

What is it to you to declare My statutes, or take up My covenant on your mouth?

¹⁷ **since you hate instruction, and throw My words behind you.**

¹⁸ **When you see a thief, you consent with him; and with adulterers you share.**

¹⁹ **You send your mouth to do evil, your tongue is hitched to deceit;**

²⁰ **you sit and speak against your brother; the son of your own mother, you slander.**

²¹ **This you have done, and I kept silent; you thought I was just like you:** but I reprove you, setting in order before your eyes.

Think about it: The Lord turns to the clearly wicked among his people; those who were in the highest places of His sanctuary. To the breakers of the second table He now addresses; He spoke to the neglecters of the first, who openly violate my moral law, and yet are great for ceremonial commands! Do you dare to teach my law to others, and profane it yourselves? Profane professors are often too wise to learn, too infatuated with self to be taught of God; who hate instruction, and throw God's word behind them.

In these last days, there are pickers and choosers of God's word who cannot endure the practical parts of Scripture; they are disgusted at duty, they abhor responsibility, they disembowel texts of their plain meanings, and they wrestle the Scriptures to their own destruction. Moral honesty cannot be absent where true grace is present. No amount of ceremonial or theological accuracy can cover dishonesty. The one who surrenders to slander is a hypocrite, if claiming to associate with the people of God. – Charles Spurgeon.

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²² Now consider this -- you who forget God,

lest I shred you in pieces, and none will deliver;

²³ whoever offers praise glorifies Me:

and the one who orders their conduct, will see the help of God.

Pause and think about it:

No more shall atheists mock His long delay;

His vengeance sleeps no more; behold the day!

When God appears, all nature shall adore Him.

While sinners tremble, saints rejoice before Him.

When Christ returns, wake every cheerful passion.

And shout, O saints; He comes for your salvation. – Isaac Watts; hymn writer, 1674-1748

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