

PSALM 50

A psalm of covenant renewal

Acknowledging God's call to repentance

PREPARATION:

Carefully read Psalm fifty seeking to answer these questions about the text:

1. In the first section we see a vivid portrayal of God as the great judge of all the earth. How does the psalmist refer to God? (v. 1) To whom does He send His summons?
2. From where has God "shone forth"? (v. 2) The psalmist now pictures Him as coming out to do what? (v. 3-4)
3. Who does God command to be gathered? (v. 5) What do the heavens declare in connection with this? (v. 6)
4. God first testifies against what people? (v. 7) What does He say He would not approve or accept from His people? (v. 8-9)
5. What misconception about God do the Israelites manifest in their offerings? How does God respond to this misconception? (v. 10-13)
6. What exactly did God want his people to do? (v. 14-15) How do these acts differ from those they were doing?
7. God secondly testifies against what people? (v. 16) What charge does God make to them?
8. Make a list of the things the Lord said the wicked had done? (v. 17-20)

9. How had the Lord first reacted to these things? (v. 21) Consequently what did the Lord say the wicked thought about Him? But now what is the Lord doing?

10. So what exactly did God want those who have forgotten Him to do? (v. 22-23) What did He say would happen if they did not do so? In contrast what would happen to the one who keeps his covenant with God? (v. 23)

KEY QUESTION:

Write in your own words below what you think is the main message of this psalm.

**FOR CLASS
DISCUSSION:**



Historical and cultural setting

1. How did non-Israelite cultures view their offerings to God?

2. Briefly summarize the role that animal sacrifices had played in God's covenant with Israel. What were their purposes?



What does this psalm tell us about God and His people?

How did Jesus fulfill the principle of worship taught in this psalm? (Heb. 10:5-10)

How could the Christian apply the teaching of this psalm to his life today? (Cf. 1 Pet. 4:17-19)

