

# The SONGS OF ZION

## DISCUSSION

*"THIS PSALM PICTURES GOD SEATED IN HIS HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM. HE HAS TWO INDICTMENTS AGAINST HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL. THE WICKED AMONG THEM WERE HYPOCRITICAL IN THEIR WORSHIP, A VIOLATION OF THE FIRST PART OF THE DECALOGUE, AND IN THEIR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, A VIOLATION OF THE SECOND PART. THEY NEEDED TO RETURN TO HIM WHOLEHEARTEDLY. THIS IS A DIDACTIC (TEACHING) WISDOM PSALM WRITTEN TO TEACH GOD'S PEOPLE AN IMPORTANT LESSON."*

- DR. THOMAS CONSTABLE

1. What is the point (or theme) of this psalm?
2. What symbol does God use in this psalm for His judgement?
3. Who are the "faithful ones, who made a covenant?" Does this apply to New Testament believers? If so, how does it apply?
4. How does the imagery of Psalm 50 make you feel regarding hypocritical worship?
5. In the past, have you found yourself in a season of hypocritical worship? If so, how did you get out of that season? If not, how have you been kept from engaging hypocritically? How would you explain to others what hypocritical worship is? How can you help others when they are engaging God wrongly?
6. What heart posture/attitude should you take in worship?
7. Currently is there an area in your life where you are hypocritical in your worship? If so, are you willing to confess it to the group? How can we as a group pray for you?
8. Is there anything else that stands out to you in this psalm that you would like to discuss?

## PSALM 50 {ESV}

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!"