

## Psalms 50, 52

**Psalms Psalms 50:21** These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes.

The first of our Psalms is a Psalm of Asaph and the second is one of David's but they share a striking theme - a contrast between God's truth and man's assumptions.

**Psalms 50:** The Psalm begins with a vision of God gathering His people for judgment. He is the mighty One who speaks out of Zion to those whom He has called together from rising to the setting sun. God will shine, a fire will devour before Him in the midst of a great storm. Out of the heavens and to the earth God will judge His people. God is judge and His righteousness will be clear to all.

In verses 7-15, God declares a judgment of His people, Israel. He does not criticize them for offering sacrifices. The problem was that the sacrifices were offered without true contrition for sin and without resolve to follow the commandments. It was as if the people thought that they were doing God a favor by offering these sacrifices. God rebuked them stating that there was

nothing in the sacrifices themselves that He needed. "Every beast in the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills." Further, He said, "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine and all its fullness..." The remedy was clear. "Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay Your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Verses 16 - 21 are addressed to the wicked. (In the context, the wicked among God's people) The fault with these was their declaration of God's word as if they were true believers when as soon as your back was turned they were consorting with thieves and adulterers and speaking lies and slanders against the brethren. They were thinking that since God was silent, that He must not have a problem with what they were doing and saying. They had the impression that God would do the same thing were He to be in their shoes. God's response was not what they expected, "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver: Whoever offers praise glorifies Me and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." Of both groups God sought a remedy that was

characterized by thanksgiving and obedience.

**Psalms 52:** This Psalm was David's response to Doeg when He went to Saul to report that David had gone to the house of Ahimelech. The intent of Doeg's "report" was to imply that David was conspiring with the priests against the king and Doeg's words fell on fertile ground for King Saul always thought the worst of David. Doeg thought that he was invincible, that he was a mighty man who could not be harmed. This was his mistake. God witnessed the darkness of his heart and the deceitfulness of his tongue and vowed to destroy him. He would be uprooted and he would lose his place. He would be derided by others, "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in His wickedness.

David, who was another witness of this tragedy declared, "I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise you forever for You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name for it is good."