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The
Songs
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PSALMS - The SONGS

Fifty

The Judge Convenes His Court

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. He, His, Most High, King, etc.), with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every reference to God as Judge with a purple box.

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every reference to Israel, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. God's people, My godly ones, Israel, our, you, etc.), with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 50** and underline every reference to the wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. you, you who forget God), with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every reference to sacrifices, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. burnt offerings, young bull, male goats, blood, etc.), with a flame of fire and smoke.

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every time reference with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 50** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 50** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God is Judge!
2. To His people...Ritual without thanksgiving
3. To the wicked...Ritual with disobedience
4. To those who forget God... "There will be no salvation."

5. To those who offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving... “I will show salvation.”

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 50:1-6

Who has spoken?

1.

2.

3.



Point of Depth

Who should be listening?

Amazing, isn't it...

The Mighty One...

God...

the LORD...

speaks to His creation constantly...

outwardly—through His creation...

inwardly—directly to the conscience of each and every man...

and additionally—in His Word...

Yet...

how often do men listen?

Verses 1-6 sets before us the Supreme Judge entering His courtroom to judge His people, Israel. Who, or what, does the Mighty One summon as His witnesses? (Take your answer from **verses 1-6**.)

1.

2.



Israel had entered into a Covenant with God...

**Witnesses were part of the ritual
which accompanied the solemn, binding nature of covenants.
These witnesses were called upon to testify on behalf of the innocent party.**

**God often called (symbolically) His creation,
both the heavens and the earth,
as His witnesses against Israel.
In doing so, He personifies both the heavens and the earth.**

Deuteronomy 4:26
***I call heaven and earth to witness against you today,
that you will surely perish quickly from the land
where you are going over the Jordan to possess it.
You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.***

Isaiah 1:2
***Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth;
For the Lord speaks,
“Sons I have reared and brought up,
But they have revolted against Me.”***

This scene will take our breath away if we stop and consider what is actually happening. How is Zion described?

Although the sun was mentioned in **verse 1**, it was referring to the scope of the earth. Here a Light greater than the sun shines forth from Zion. Where is the Light coming from?



The phrase, “from the rising of the sun to its setting”
refers to the “where” not the “when”.

Isaiah 59:19

***So they will 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.***

Malachi 1:11

***“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting,
My name will be great among the nations,
and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name,
and a grain offering that is pure;
for My Name will be great among the nations,”
says the LORD of hosts.***

In **verse 7** God will begin to speak to His people. But, here, in **verses 1** through **6**, who is speaking?

What is Israel waiting for their God to do?

- 1.
- 2.

What will His appearance be like?

- 1.
- 2.



**The psalmist is painting a picture of a theophany for us.
The word theophany comes from two Greek words—“God” and “to show”.**

**It is a time when God's presence is revealed—
a time when God is made manifest.**

Fire and storm often accompany the appearance of God...

Exodus 19:18

***Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire;
and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace,
and the whole mountain quaked violently.***

Psalms 18:12

***From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds,
Hailstones and coals of fire.***

Ezekiel 1:4

***As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north,
a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it,
and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.***

Ezekiel 1:26-28

***Now above the expanse that was over their heads
there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance;
and on that which resembled a throne, high up,
was a figure with the appearance of a man.***

***Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward
something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it,
and from the appearance of His loins and downward
I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him.***

***As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day,
so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance.
Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.
And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.***

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

***...and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well
when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels
in flaming fire,
dealing out retribution to those who do not know God
and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.***

Who is God going to judge?

Who, or what, does God summon?

1.

2.

Who does He order to be gathered to Him?

How does He define who His godly ones are?

How binding is this Covenant? What ritual has been performed to show the unbreakable nature of the Covenant?



Israel had entered into Covenant with the LORD...

**Sacrifices were part of the ritual
which accompanied the solemn, binding nature of covenants.**

**The persons who entered into a covenant would take an animal
and divide it lengthwise.
Then they would place the two parts of the animal parallel to one another.
The parties entering covenant would walk between the pieces,
effectively saying,
“If I break this covenant,
may the same as has been done to this animal be done to me.”**

Exodus 24:3–8

***Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD
and all the ordinances;
and all the people answered with one voice and said,
“All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”
Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.
Then he arose early in the morning,
and built an altar at the foot of the mountain
with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
He sent young men of the sons of Israel,
and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls***

*as peace offerings to the LORD.
Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins,
and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.
Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people;
and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"
So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said,
"Behold the blood of the covenant,
which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."*

What do the heavens declare?

Why do they declare God's righteousness?



**The heavens do not proclaim God's righteousness
simply as an attribute of praise.**

**Rather, as His witnesses,
they declare the absolute and indisputable righteousness
of the decision He is about to render against His people.**

God is the One and Only Righteous Judge...



**The Hebrew word for "judge" is *diyn*
and means a straight course.
It has the idea of sailing in a direct line from departure to destination.**

Before we go any farther, take a moment and observe **verses 1-6** carefully, asking God to show you the picture He has painted for us. Think about the placement of each element in the picture—the earth gathering to wait for His arrival, God shining forth out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, fire devouring before Him as He comes nearer, the tempest surrounding Him, the heavens and the earth called to His court as His witnesses, His saints (who are in Covenant with Him) being called as the defendants, and God, Himself, as Judge. Once you have painted the same picture in your mind, try to draw a "stick picture" of what you understand. (Don't worry, no one needs to look at

your picture. Give it a try. It will help you to see what God is saying in this very important **Psalm**.)

Psalm 50:7-15

In **verses 1** through **6** the psalmist, representing the people of Israel, was speaking. Who begins to speak in **verse 7**?

Read through the rest of the **Psalm**. For how long (in which verses) does God continue to speak?

To whom does God speak?

What does God tell His people to do?

What does God tell His people He will do?

What does God inform Israel He will say to them?

What position does God take in regards to this courtroom scene?

Who does God say He is?

Whose God does He say He is?

By virtue of the facts that He is God and that He is their nation's God, does He have a right to judge them?

What does God not choose to find fault with in His people?

1.

2.

Does it seem the people have been offering sacrifices and burnt offerings on schedule?

How do you know?

Does God say He is pleased with them, or does He just tell them He will not reprove them over their sacrifices and offerings?

Does God bless them for their ritual allegiance?

Why not? (If you don't know the answer to this yet, just keep observing. You will!)

Is God interested in taking their young bulls and male goats from them?

How do you know?

Does God need (or even want) any young bulls or male goats?

Why not?

What does God say is already His?

1.

2.

3.

4.

If God needed food, and He doesn't, would it be beneficial to tell Israel about His need?

Why not?

1.

2.

What does God do with the sacrifices and male goats? Does He literally eat the flesh or drink the blood?

Then, according to this text, what does God want from the ritual of sacrifices and offerings?

What are the Israelites exhorted to do?

1.

2.

If they do so, what can they do in the Day of Trouble?



**The phrase “day of trouble” is used frequently in the Bible.
It refers *generally* to a time of great battle.
It refers *specifically* to the Great Tribulation.**

**In the time of the kings of Israel there were constant wars,
but, as we've seen in so many of the Psalms,
this is most likely referring to the greatest battle of all—**

**the one in which the LORD will descend and save His people.
The one in which the Messiah will deliver the Jews from Jacob's Distress.
The one in which Jesus Christ
will be victor over the antichrist and all the nations of the world.**

How does God promise to respond (if their hearts are right toward Him) when they call on Him during the Day of Trouble?

Once He rescues them, what does He expect their response to be?

Summarize what God has just said to His people. Remember what He says their hands are doing and what He says their hearts should do.

Now take a moment and examine yourself—both your “work” for God and your “heart” toward God. Have you listened to what God has said to His people? Do you see anything in this passage that relates to you? How will you respond to what He has said?

Psalm 50:16-21

What word does **verse 16** begin with?

What is the contrast that the word “but” implies?

Who did God address in **verses 7-15**?

Who does God address in **verses 16-21**?

What rhetorical question does God ask the wicked?

What Covenant is God referring to?

Why does He ask this question? Who are the wicked?

Why does He ask this question? What are the wicked doing?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

In case you haven't seen it yet, why would God tell these wicked people that they do not have the right to talk about His statutes and His Covenant?

I know I keep asking this, but who are these people?

Who did God gather to judge (**verse 5**)?

What sort of Israelite does God address in **verses 7** through **15**?

What sort of Israelite does God address in **verses 16** through **21**?



The Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets.

**The first five commandments concern our relationship to the LORD—
they deal with piety, religious duty, or holiness.**

**The second five commandments concern our relationship to one another—
they deal with probity, uprightness, or honor.**

The first group of Israelites have broken the heart of the first tablet.

**They are performing empty religious rituals,
thinking God should be appreciative of their behavior.
They lack a heart of thanksgiving.
They do not discern they are the ones who need God.**

The second group of Israelites have broken the heart of the second tablet.

**They say they are in Covenant with God,
proclaiming to be holy,
deliberately disobeying the statutes they had agreed to—
breaking every rule in His Book.**

**Don't miss the connection—
The Ten Commandments are the very laws of the Covenant itself.**

**There is a reason for this courtroom scene...
There is a reason God is judging His people...
They have broken *His Law*...
So they must appear in *His Court*...**

What discipline does God charge the wicked of hating? (Hint: **Verse 16** and the second line of **verse 17** have the answer.)

Which of God's words are the wicked in Israel casting behind them (ignoring and disobeying)?

Are the wicked in Israel honest?

How do you know?

With whom do these wicked ones in Israel associate with?

What do the next four lines have in common?

God charges the wicked in Israel (and rightly so) with hating discipline, ignoring God's Word, running together with thieves, associating with adulterers, speaking evil, framing deceit, and slandering even those they are supposed to love. And yet, according to this **Psalm**, what do these people call themselves? What standing do these people believe they have with God?

Did God stop these people from doing so? What has been His long-suffering response to their sin thus far?

What, however, is about to change?

What is God going to do?

During the period of God's silence, what arrogant belief did these people have?

What is God going to do as He sits on His throne of justice?

- 1.
- 2.

Will these sinners gain understanding of just how extraordinarily unlike God is to men?

Psalm 50:22-23

God is still speaking—first He spoke to those who were performing empty religious rituals, then He spoke to those proclaiming to be holy even though they were disobedient in every facet of their lives. Read these two verses carefully. To whom is God speaking?

God addresses those who forget Him, laying Him and His Word aside as worthless, which both groups previously addressed have done. What advice does He give them?

Consider what?



The Hebrew word for “consider” is *biyn* and is a primitive root that means to mentally separate, or distinguish. It has the idea of understanding, or in our modern vernacular “getting it”!

What does God threaten to do if they do not consider (and respond rightly to) what He has said?

- 1.
- 2.

What does God consider the right response to what He has said?

1.

2.

What is synonymous with a sacrifice of thanksgiving?

According to this text, what honors God?

1.

2.

What promise does God give to those who respond rightly to what He has said and honor Him?

Salvation from what? (Context!)

READ AND REASON

Is God the same today as He was in the Old Testament?

Psalm 55:19a

***God will hear and answer them—even the One who sits enthroned from of old—
Selah. With whom there is no change...***

Malachi 3:6

For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Does God still expect honor and thanksgiving from His creation?

Romans 1:18-21

***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because***

that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Is God still the Judge of His creation? Does God still judge each and every man?

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

John 12:48

He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:12

...in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Acts 10:42

And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 17:31

...because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

2 Timothy 4:1

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom...

Hebrews 12:25

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

1 Peter 4:5-6

...but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Revelation 11:18

And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Revelation 20:12-13

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

Yes, He is still the same and He will never ever change.

Yes, He still expects to be honored and thanked by His creation.

Yes, He still judges His creation.

Although God stays the same, something else is different... majorly different...

There is a New Covenant available to us today. Those who have entered the New Covenant, those who are in Christ Jesus, are not destined for the wrath of God! Christians will be judged, but it will be a judgment that determines rewards or loss of rewards. There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus!

Let's look at some pretty important passages that explain this New Covenant and how it protects those who are in it from the judgment of God.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah 32:37-40

Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger, in My wrath and in great indignation; and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety. They shall be My people, and I will be their God; and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

In the book of **Jeremiah**, the prophet proclaimed God's coming judgment on the people of Judah—they had broken their covenant with Him too many times so God pronounced He would take them out of the land of Israel and send them to Babylon for 70 years. However, God also promised, through Jeremiah, to make a brand new Covenant with Judah and with the house of Israel. This New Covenant would not be like the Old Covenant He made with their fathers when He brought them out of Egypt—this Covenant would be better!

Even when the people of Israel wanted to obey God, they did not because of their heart condition—they needed a heart transplant—one that would obey God. God promises He will perform divine surgery on their hearts. In the New Covenant, God promises to give them a new heart—a heart of flesh. This is where He will write His law—within them! He will be their God and they will be His people. He promises to give them one heart and one way. They will fear Him and follow His commands and will not turn away from Him. (In **Exodus 20:20** God actually frightened the people to keep them from breaking the Old Covenant.) The New Covenant will be an everlasting Covenant—a Covenant in which He will not turn away from them, a Covenant in which He will do them good.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.

During the days of Ezekiel, God showed him horrible things that would happen to Israel because she had broken Covenant with God. God told Ezekiel that Jerusalem would be the pot and the Israelites inside the walls would be like the food cooked in that pot.

The nation of Israel was going about her own business (sinning against God, ignoring Him and His Word) when God told Ezekiel to prophesy to her. The message was not encouraging! He said He would take the Israelites out of Jerusalem, kill them with the sword and deliver them to captors. He said that by this Israel would know that God was the LORD. They had not obeyed God, but had mimicked the evil nations around them—they were following the world instead of following their LORD.

Ezekiel is terrified that God is going to destroy Israel completely. God reassures him that although He scattered her among the nations, He still took care of her. God also promises Ezekiel that He will gather His people from among those nations and bring them back to Israel. Israel will ultimately possess the land promised to her since the days of Abraham.

But something big is going to have to take place to change the Israelites themselves. That big thing is the New Covenant! The New Covenant will give them a new spirit—a new attitude, new wants and desires. He will also give them one heart—they will no longer do what is right in their own eyes, they will follow God in unity. God will give them a heart of flesh, one that is sensitive to His touch—responsive to His Word. Then, and only then, will Israel obey God. Then, and only then, will they be God’s people. Then, and only then, will He be their God.

Ezekiel 36:22-27

Therefore say to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.’”

God again promises a New Covenant for Israel. However, He makes it clear that He is doing it for *His Name’s* sake—not because of the people! His Name and reputation were tarnished when He had to send His people to other countries. He will vindicate the holiness of His great Name through a New Covenant! He will prove Himself holy in the sight of all the nations. They will all know that God is the *LORD!*

He promises to gather them back from all the nations where He has sent them and plant them once again in the land of Israel. (God is fulfilling this prophecy during our own generation!) When He is ready, He will sprinkle clean water on them and make them clean. He will cleanse them from all their filthiness and from all their idols.

His New Covenant promises that He will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them. He will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. In other words, God is going to change their wants and their desires. They will now want to obey God!

He will also give them the ability to obey Him by putting His Own Spirit within them. His Spirit will cause them to walk in His statutes and cause them to be careful to observe His ordinances.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Paul explains the benefits of the New Covenant to the Corinthian church. He compares the Corinthians to written letters that prove the New Covenant changes people. They are not written with ink, like the parchments that hold their Law, but with the Spirit of the Living God. They are not written on stones like the Law given to Moses but on tablets of human hearts.

He then continues his epistle by contrasting the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. While the Old Covenant kills, the New Covenant gives life through the Holy Spirit. The Law killed because no one could keep it, and therefore deserved and incurred God's wrath. In the New Covenant, the Spirit changes us and causes us to walk according to His will and therefore, brings life.

Paul calls the Law the ministry of death or condemnation (because if you broke any of the laws you received the curse of death) but says it came with glory. Then he reasons, if the ministry of death came with glory it is obvious that the ministry of the Spirit—the ministry of righteousness—has even more glory. In fact, it abounds in glory. Actually, compared to the glory of the New Covenant, the Old Covenant doesn't have *any* glory! The glory of the Old faded away, but the glory of the New remains!

When a person looks to the Law, a veil is over his heart and he can't understand Truth, but when a person looks to Christ, his eyes will be opened and he will understand Truth. **Romans 10:4** tell us, ***“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to***

everyone who believes.” Once a person can understand Truth, he will study the Word of God. Once he understands and obeys the Word of God, he will be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the exact image and nature and representation of God the Father. He brings glory to God because He shows Who God really is. When we are conformed into the image of Jesus, then we, too, show the world Who God really is! Hallelujah!!! Remember why God created man—to bring Glory to Himself!!! The New Covenant accomplishes the will of God. God’s will is to bring Himself Glory!!! Glory to God in the Highest!!! Amen!!! Amen!!!

Galatians 3:5-16

So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in You.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.” Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “the righteous man shall live by faith.” However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “He who practices them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” — in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

To enter this wonderful New Covenant takes one thing only—faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Seed is the only way to receive Life! Not only does faith bring you to salvation, faith is the means by which we are perfected or completed.

It took faith (belief) in the Word of God for Abraham to be saved. It is those who have faith (belief) in the Word of God who are sons of Abraham and therefore blessed along with him. We (both Jew and Gentile) receive the promise of the Spirit through faith!

As long as you are looking to the Law to save you or to sanctify you, you are cursed. You cannot be under the Old Covenant and the New Covenant at the same time!

The promises were spoken to Abraham and his Seed, Jesus. When we are in Christ, we are one with Him and receive what He receives. Jesus returned to the Father. The Father was satisfied with all that the Son had done and gave Jesus what had been promised to Him—The Holy Spirit. Jesus then poured out that Spirit on all of mankind (both Jew and Gentile) who would believe.

Galatians 3:17-29

What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

The Law was given 430 years after God's Covenant with Abraham (when He created the nation of Israel). It did not invalidate or contradict the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. The inheritance offered in the Abrahamic Covenant was based on a promise. The Law was based on performance.

Paul asks the question that he knows the Galatians are thinking. Why did God add the Law? Paul doesn't skip a beat and proceeds to answer their (his) question. The Law was added to define what transgressions were. Even before the Law, people sinned. Sometimes people were aware they were sinning directly against the Word of God; sometimes people sinned out of ignorance of God's ways. The Law was put in place so that no one could plead ignorance in his or her defense. God, through the Law, clearly defined what He expected of Israel.

The Law, Paul tells us, also benefited the people in another way—it kept people shut up and in custody until the New Covenant. Yes, the people were sinning and would continue to sin, but with the Law as their goal, they would sin less than without it. It

would corral them in, keeping them away from the world's ways and keeping the world's ways away from them. In other words, although they would still be stained with the ways of the world, the stain wouldn't be as dark!

The Law was a tutor to lead people to Christ (the New Covenant). The Law showed people that there was no other way to become righteous than by accepting the righteousness of Christ as their own. Once people find and receive Christ (enter the New Covenant), they no longer need the Law. Now the Spirit of Jesus lives in them and keeps them from sinning as a way of life.

And once people are saved through faith in Christ Jesus, they became sons of God. No longer is there a distinction between Jew and Gentile, male or female, slave or free man. Every one is the same in Christ Jesus. And once you belong to Christ, you become a descendant of Abraham, an heir based on the promise made by God!

Galatians 4:1-7

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Paul continues his dialogue by using the example of an heir who is a child. Although a child will someday inherit his father's wealth, while he is a child he isn't treated any differently than his father's slaves. He is told what to do by guardians and managers. That's what the Law does for us until we are saved. It governs our walk in life until we have faith in Jesus. Then Jesus will govern our life.

Once we receive Jesus and become sons of God, His Spirit within us affirms that we are saved. We have a new relationship with God. No longer one of enmity, but one of parent and child. We are no longer slaves, but heirs!

Hebrews 8

Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "That you make all things according to the

pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them, He says,

***“Behold, days are coming”, says the Lord,
“When I will effect a new covenant
With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;
Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers
On the day when I took them by the hand
To lead them out of the land of Egypt;
For they did not continue in My covenant,
And I did not care for them”, says the Lord.
“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
After those days, says the Lord:
I will put My laws into their minds,
And I will write them on their hearts.
And I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.
And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen,
And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
For all will know Me,
From the least to the greatest of them.
For I will be merciful to their iniquities,
And I will remember their sins no more.”***

When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

The Covenant God made with Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant) was the *promise*. Jesus Christ (New Covenant) is the *fulfillment*! The Law (Old Covenant) was given in the interim as a *picture* of salvation. Everything that was part of the Tabernacle and its rituals gave the Israelites a picture of the Truth of Jesus—if they would only have eyes to see! But it was only a copy and shadow of the real.

The New Covenant is so much better than the Old that it is hard to compare the two. The New Covenant has a much better Sanctuary and Tabernacle, a greater High Priest, Jesus, and a better ministry. The sacrifice Christ made was better than all the gifts and sacrifices ever offered in the Tabernacle put together!

The New Covenant even offered better promises than the Old Covenant. And most importantly, it offered a surefire way to obtain the promises. In the Old Covenant, you were responsible for keeping your side of the agreement. If you failed to keep your side you were cursed! But in the New Covenant, God is willing to keep not only His side, but your side for you!!!

The fault with the first Covenant was the people involved. They had wicked hearts and were incapable of keeping the Covenant. In the New Covenant, God guarantees that He will keep His promises, but He also gives you a new heart and puts His Spirit within you, thereby guaranteeing that you will keep your side.

Here in **Hebrews**, the author is quoting Jeremiah's prophecy of the New Covenant. This Covenant is offered to any and all who would believe (both Jew and Gentile)! Those who embrace all that Jesus is enter this Covenant!

When Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant, it superseded the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 9

Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the

death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

The Tabernacle and its rituals (which were the mainstay of the Old Covenant) were actually a symbol of the New Covenant to come—Jesus Christ, The Seed! While it was still standing, it was a symbol or message to the people that there was no access into the Holy Place—no access to God. There was no access to God because the Old Covenant could never make a person truly clean and holy before God.

But the Tabernacle was not to last forever. It was only a sign for a time—a sign of the New Covenant to come, the Covenant that could and would make a person truly clean and holy before God. The Covenant that would give a person access to God!!!

When Christ entered the true Tabernacle as the High Priest for us with His Own perfect blood, God was satisfied and proclaimed that no other sacrifice ever need be made! Christ's blood didn't just cleanse our flesh, it cleansed our consciences from dead works to serve the Living God!

Hebrews 10

For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and

goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God.'" After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," He then says, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were

so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

The author of **Hebrews** continues with his contrast of the New Covenant and the Law. He reminds them that the Law was only a shadow of the good things to come. Salvation in Jesus Christ is “those good things to come!”

Jesus came and performed the Father’s will perfectly. The Father’s will was that the New Covenant would be established so we could be sanctified!

Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of God because His work of atonement, or redemption is finished! Now the Holy Spirit dwells in each believer and causes him or her to remain faithful to God! There doesn’t need to be another offering, because there is forgiveness for all of our sins!

And that is how the New Covenant protects those who are in it from the judgment of God!

If you have entered the New Covenant, think about its glorious provisions the next time you take communion. ***“In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the New covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 1 Corinthians 11:25***

If you have never entered the New Covenant, why don’t you ask God for permission to enter—to grant you repentance toward Him and the faith to believe all that Jesus, His Son, has done for you...

May you receive the love of the truth so as to be saved...

~ Segment by Segment

Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-15

Verses 16-21

Verses 22-23

~ Purpose of Psalm 50

Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 50.
The purpose simply states “*why* the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.

~ Theme of Psalm 50

Try giving Psalm 50 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “*what* the Psalm is about”.
