

## The Righteous Judge

Psalm 50: 1-6

Our text comes from a challenging and convicting passage of Scripture. Bear in mind, this psalm was written hundreds of years prior to the birth of Christ. Some attribute it to the time of king Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, while many argue it would have been written during the reign of David. Regardless of the writer, it is clearly a prophetic psalm, speaking of the End Times and the Judgment of the Lord.

As we examine the psalm, it can be broken down into three segments: we see the Lord's Deity in verses 1-6; we see His Dominion in verses 7-15; and we see His righteous Decree in verses 16-23. Time will not permit us to examine the entire psalm, but knowing the break-down of the psalm will offer guidance for our study.

Like the writers of old, we too must be aware of the coming Judgment. All will stand before the Lord, Jesus Christ in judgment. We will all give account of the lives we have lived. For the saved, this judgment will determine our reward in heaven. For the unsaved, this judgment will determine their punishment in the lake of fire. No doubt, this will be a somber time for all who stand before the Lord. He will read the charges, and we will submit to His righteous authority.

As we examine the [insights](#) revealed in the text, I want to consider: [The Righteous Judge](#).

**I. The Character of the Judge** (1-3) – In the opening verses, the psalmist speaks of the righteous nature of the LORD, the righteous Judge. He spoke of:

**A. His Preeminence** (1) – [The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.](#) The psalmist spoke of the LORD's preeminent power and authority to summon all the nations and people of the earth to stand before His presence. Those whom the LORD calls in that day will stand before Him, from throughout the earth. They will assemble from the east to the west, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. All will hear the summons, and none will be able to refuse or fail to stand before His presence!

- It is interesting to note that the psalmist records three names of God in the phrase, *the mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken*. We see *El, Elohim, and LORD*. *El* speaks of the mighty One, revealing all the attributes associated with His deity. *Elohim* speaks of the majestic One, the God of creation and power. *LORD* is His personal, covenant name, dealing with His redemptive nature and how He relates to His people. Each of these describe the One who will summon the nations of the earth.

- We see in the later part of the psalm, verses 16-22, God will judge the wicked, those who have rejected His grace in salvation. These will be gathered into the Kidron Valley in Israel, to stand before the righteous Judge.

**B. His Perfection** (2) – *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.* The psalmist also declared that through the nation of Israel, the perfection and beauty of God shined. Through those God chose unto Himself, He revealed His grace and glory. Prior to the birth of Jesus, Israel experienced the Shekinah glory of God as He led them in the wilderness, and then as He hovered over the ark of the covenant. In the fulness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a virgin womb, robed in a body of flesh, to reveal Himself through the nation of Israel. While most denied and rejected Jesus as the Christ, the glory and perfection of God was revealed for mankind to see!

- Those who receive salvation in Christ are accepted of God and adopted into His family. These will enjoy the radiant glory of the Lord throughout eternity. All who have denied Him will stand before His sinless perfection and glory as He judges their sin and cast them into outer darkness in the lake of fire in judgment. I am thankful I saw His glory through salvation and will have the privilege of worshiping Him around the throne of glory!

**C. His Power** (3) – *Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.* The psalmist reveals a time yet future that we are unable to comprehend. The Lord was denied and rejected, mocked, abused, and crucified the first time He came. His return will be much different. When He returns, the world will see Him and hear as He speaks. He will come to judge the earth as a consuming fire and a raging storm. Those upon the earth, and even Satan himself, will be powerless to prevent the return of the Lord. These will stand before the holy Judge as He delivers righteous judgment!

- While we cannot imagine the power and righteousness that will be displayed at that moment, it will certainly become reality one day. This will not be a time of ease and comfort, with the wicked relishing in their sin. These will experience the power and fury of a holy God who has come to judge sin and the sinful. As believers, we must do all we can to sound the alarm, share the Gospel, and win the unsaved to Christ!

**II. The Charges from the Judge** (4-6) – Here the psalmist reveals the hearing before the righteous Judge as the charges are read. Consider:

**A. The Indictment** (4) – *He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.* As the judge comes to render righteous judgment, and deliver the charges against the guilty, He will do so with witnesses. He will summon some from the heavens above to witness the proceedings of the trial. Apparently, these will be the heavenly host from heaven, possibly the angels and the twenty-four elders. He will also summon mankind to gather before Him from the earth. This will be a somber and grand event as the righteous Judge begins to read the charges and prepares to render judgment!

- While these will be witness to the proceedings, the Judge will bring the charges and render judgment. These are summoned as witnesses to the court.

**B. The Defendants** (5) – *Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.* Most agree this refers to the Israelites, those who entered into covenant with the Lord. Throughout the ages, many were committed to the Lord and served Him faithfully. However, the vast majority did not. It appears this time will be one of great sorrow for those who stand before the Lord. Consider the geographic location of this scene. They are not far removed from the Garden of Gethsemane, the praetorium where Jesus stood accused of His own before Pilate, and Calvary's hill. These will stand before the Lord, those whom He had chosen unto Himself, His covenant people, and yet they have denied the Christ. Many were committed to religious practices and adherence to the Law, but denied the saving grace of Christ the Lord.

- As I pondered this, I considered the masses today who think they are right with God because of commitment to religion or through moral deeds. While these are fine within themselves, they do not and cannot secure salvation. One must come to saving faith through the finished work of Christ. He alone is the source and means of salvation!

**C. The Acknowledgement** (6a) – *And the heavens shall declare his righteousness.* As Jesus stood before His accusers and was condemned to death upon the cross, no one stood in His defense. No one challenged the hypocrisy and injustice that was being perpetrated against an innocent man. (I am well aware that His crucifixion was all within the sovereign will of God and He did not go to Calvary because of the condemnation of Pilate or the rejection of the Jews. However, no one who followed Jesus rose to stand in His defense.) The scene will be much different when the Lord comes again in power and great glory to judge the earth. There won't be silence, as the heavens declare His righteousness and affirm His deity to those gathered before Him!

**D. The Judgment** (6b) – *for God is judge himself. Selah.* Here we discover the affirmation of the psalmist regarding the deity of the Lord and His right to stand as the righteous Judge. We need to

take a moment to consider the true identity of the Judge. God exists in three persons – The Father, Son, and Spirit. Many, like I did for years, assume the Father will be the righteous Judge. When you examine Scripture, it becomes apparent that Christ will stand as the righteous Judge. The One condemned to death in a mock trial, will return as the sovereign, righteous Judge to examine the deeds done by man in this life and render judgment. [John 5:22, 27 – For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.](#) <sup>[27]</sup> [And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.](#) [Acts 17:31 – Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by \*that\* man whom he hath ordained; \*whereof\* he hath given assurance unto all \*men\*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.](#)

- While this will be a terrible event for those present, we must understand that there will be two separate and distinct judgments. The saved by grace will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Bema Seat. [2 Cor.5:10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things \*done\* in \*his\* body, according to that he hath done, whether \*it be\* good or bad.](#) We will not stand before the Lord and give account for our sin. He bore the penalty for our sin as He suffered the righteous judgment of God on the cross. [Rom.8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.](#) We are not saved by our works, but our works will be judged as we stand before Christ. [1 Cor.3:13-15 – Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.](#) <sup>[14]</sup> [If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.](#) <sup>[15]</sup> [If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.](#) [Rev.22:12 – And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.](#)

- All the unsaved will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. These will be judged according to their works as well. I believe just as the rewards in heaven will vary, based on individual works, the punishment of judgment will vary, based on individual works. [Rev.20:11-15 – And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.](#) <sup>[12]</sup> [And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is \*the book\* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.](#) <sup>[13]</sup> [And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.](#) <sup>[14]</sup> [And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.](#) <sup>[15]</sup> [And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.](#)

**Conclusion:** The righteous Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ, will return in power and great glory. Following the Millennial Reign, He will judge those who have denied Him in salvation. Judgment is sure; it will be swift and it will be just. I am thankful I have been saved by grace and will not have

to stand before the Great White Throne. What about you? Which judgment will you be present at – the Bema Seat of Christ or the White Throne judgment? All who stand before the Lord at the White Throne judgment will be cast into the lake of fire, eternally separated and condemned. Now is the time to make preparation. If you are yet unsaved, repent of sin and believe in the finished work of Christ for salvation by faith. If you are saved, I pray this passage challenges you to live wholly for the Lord while seeking to reach the unsaved.