

Back in the year 1908, a former lawyer and criminal investigator for Britain, who loved Jesus Christ, wrote a book that stirred the Christian community. It was a book based in part on Psalm 50:21. The name of the book was “The Silence of God” and the author of the book was Sir Robert Anderson.

One of the points that Mr. Anderson stresses in the book is that just because God seems to be silent in the present does not mean His ferocious judgment will not come in the future. There are many people who actually think they are getting away with sin and that it will never be called to judgment.

Now we expect this kind of thinking from the unbeliever. We expect that the unbeliever will try to go through life trying to dismiss the thought of the coming judgment of God from his mind. But you do not expect this kind of thinking from a believer.

Psalm 50 is a Psalm that speaks of the coming judgment of God. As near as I can tell it is a warning of coming judgment that will come against the believer—“His” people (50:5); “godly” ones (50:5); “Israel” (50:7); “brother” (50:20). Every Israelite will be called to face God and this judgment will occur after the Tribulation, before the Millennium.

God’s people will one day be judged by God. This is true for the O.T. believer and this is true for the N.T. believer. It is possible to govern our lives in a way that is righteous and it is also possible to govern our lives in a way that is not righteous. But however we govern our lives, the truth is we will all be judged by God.

Now we may observe that this is “A Psalm of Asaph.” Asaph was one of David’s handpicked worship leaders (I Chron. 15:16-17). He was a great singer (I Chron. 15:19). He was specifically chosen to offer musical praise in the most sacred place of all—before the ark of God (I Chron. 16:4-5). Asaph was also a God-sanctioned “seer” (II Chron. 29:30), which means he understood prophetic revelatory truth. **One of the revelatory truths that he obviously understood is that in the future, God will judge His people.**

Now God’s people may not want to hear about this, but this does not change the reality of it. God will judge His people. It is true for Israel and it is true for the Church. We will face God. We will give an account to Jesus Christ. Psalm 50 is a Psalm that teaches us that.

GOD IS A RIGHTEOUS GOD AND HE IS SILENTLY WATCHING EVERYTHING AND ONE DAY HE WILL BE THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE OF ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIS OWN PEOPLE; THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL.

Just because God may seem to be silent does not mean He does not see and it certainly does not mean He will not judge. The silence of God does not eliminate the future judgment of God. God will judge one day and Asaph wanted God’s people to carefully and seriously think about this fact. God’s judgment is coming for God’s own people. It will be intimidating and permanent and that is the focus of Psalm 50.

Now there are four main observations we make from this Psalm:

OBSERVATION #1 – God will summon His people to judgment. **50:1-6**

There are six key points Asaph makes about this:

Point #1 - God has power to judge. **50:1**

Now one thing grammatically worth observing is that the verb “has spoken” is a 3rd person, masculine, singular verb in Hebrew. So what this means is there is masculinity to God, there is plurality to God, there is singularity to God.

We may notice in **verse 1** that three names are given for God: “the Mighty One” (El); “God” (Elohim) and “LORD” (YHWH). Combined, these names stand for the fact that God is the self-existing, Almighty God who can do whatever He wants to do and what He intends to do is to call the whole world to judgment and accountability.

Point #2 - God has a place to judge. **50:2**

Now Zion is a metaphor for Jerusalem (Amos 1:2). God literally will call Israel to judgment in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will one day be the capital of the world. This will start at the end of the Tribulation and at the beginning of the Millennium.

So the prediction here is that God will specifically show forth His glory on and from Jerusalem and when He does do that, a major judgment will occur.

Point #3 - God will proclaim His judgment. **50:3a**

God’s judgment will not be a silent judgment. God will come in the Person of Jesus Christ in all of His glory to judge. This will not be a secret judgment. It will be very public.

Point #4 - God has purity in His judgment. **50:3b**

God’s judgment is a fiery judgment and it will burn away every evil thing. No one will just lackadaisically go up to the throne of God for judgment. This will be a very sacred and pure place.

Point #5 - God has a people for His judgment. **50:4-5**

In **verse 4**, God will summons the witness of heaven and the witness of earth to offer evidence. What we do in life is on full display before God.

According to **verse 5**, God will call His people to judgment—those from heaven and those from earth. All who are classified as “godly” ones will have their judgment.

It is clearly brought out that the only way people are in a covenant relationship with God is through a sacrifice. In this age, unless one is willing to trust in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial work for salvation, he will not be saved.

Point #6 - God Himself Personally will make this judgment. **50:6**

God's people need to realize that God is a righteous God and He will be a righteous judge. We must not ever think that just because God is not verbally talking to us that He will not eternally judge us. God will judge His people. "Selah"—stop and think about it.

OBSERVATION #2 – God judges His people who are faithful. **50:7-15**

To the faithful people of God, God has four messages:

Message #1 - I am your God. **50:7**

It is very clear that the One who will eventually judge is God. God is Israel's God and He will speak and He will judge. Just because it appears as though God is silent does not negate the fact that He is observant. God does observe things.

Message #2 - You need to continually make your sacrifices for Me. **50:8, 14**

God does monitor sacrifices made for Him and offerings given to Him. Apparently one of the judgmental factors that will come into play will be our sacrifices and offerings that we gave to the Lord. He obviously is aware of these things in worship.

Message #3 - God is not the One who needs the sacrifices. **50:9-13**

The point of these verses is that God is not the One who needs the sacrifices, His people need them. In other words, in order to maintain a proper relationship with God, proper blood sacrifices need to be made. God does not need anything from us; we need Him. God already owns everything. We are the people who need a proper relationship with God and when God sees His people sacrificially giving and bringing their offerings to Him, it pleases Him.

God does not benefit from our offerings, we benefit. When we purpose to obey God and give to God, we are actually the ones who will benefit because the God who owns everything will Personally help us.

Message #4 - God will help his faithful people in times of trouble. **50:15**

This reinforces the point—God doesn't need our help, but we sure need His help. When we are maintaining a proper relationship with Him and worship of Him, then He promises us that we may call upon Him in times of trouble and difficulty and we may expect His help. He promises He will rescue us. One reason why God will do this is so we may honor Him.

We call on God in times of trouble and experience His delivering grace and then we worship and honor Him for it.

OBSERVATION #3 – God judges His people who are unfaithful. **50:16-21**

Wicked people pretend they are right with God when they aren't. There is a graphic description of unfaithful people who are in the family of God. There are five traits:

Trait #1 - Unfaithful people do speak the Word of God but have no right before God to do it.
50:16

Unfaithful people conduct Bible studies.

Trait #2 - Unfaithful people will not respond to God's Word and in fact hate it. **50:17**

Unfaithful people not only do not like challenges from God's Word that would require some disciplined adjustment in life, but they actually hate the Word of God. They "cast" God's Word behind them. One thing that means is that they put themselves and their experiences ahead of the Word of God.

Trait #3 - Unfaithful people actually are drawn to and defend godless people. **50:18**

Unfaithful people rally around other unfaithful people. They associate with them and they defend their actions.

Trait #4 - Unfaithful people verbally abuse a faithful brother. **50:19-20**

Unfaithful people have no problem verbally butchering one who is faithful. They let their tongue fly and say things that are even deceitful.

Trait #5 - Unfaithful people think they are not heading to judgment because God is silent.
50:21

Unfaithful people make a fatal miscalculation. They assume that the silence of God means He approves of them and their actions. God does not approve of unfaithful people and He will judge them.

OBSERVATION #4 – God concludes with a message to His people. **50:22-23**

Message #1 - The warning to those unfaithful. **50:22**

Unfaithful people should shudder at the thought of facing God.

Message #2 - The encouragement to those faithful. **50:23**

Faithful people, who have come to God through the sacrifice and then have governed their lives in conformity with the Word of God, have nothing to fear because God will do wonderful things with and for that person.

FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Just because God does not now speak does not mean He does not see.
2. Just because God is our God does not mean He will not judge.