

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 227—Psalms 49-50)

Introduction: Psalm 49 is a didactic psalm urging the reader not to trust in earthly riches. Psalm 50 is also a didactic psalm declaring God to be the great Judge of the earth and revealing his judgments concerning those who are disobedient to him. The latter is the first of several psalms written by Asaph, a Levitical prophet who had charge over the tabernacle singers.

Lesson aim: To understand the kind of behavior that results in the Lord's judgment.

A psalm teaching the vanity of trusting in earthly riches— Psalm 49:1-20

1. Who does the psalmist want to hear his message? (v. 1-2) About what does he propose to speak? (v. 3-4)
2. What did the psalmist say the wicked did? (v. 5-6) Would he fear when they so acted? Why not? (v. 7-9)
3. Death comes to what groups of people? (v. 10) What did the psalmist say the wicked think about their houses? (v. 11) Yet what is the truth about man in his pomp? (v. 12)
4. What will the end of the foolish be? (v. 13-14) Yet what hope did the psalmist have? (v. 15)
5. Therefore, what lesson did the psalmist want others to understand? (v. 16-19). Man in his pomp, without understanding, is like what? (v. 20)

A psalm expressing the judgment of the Lord toward those whose worship is merely external and those who reject his word—Psalm 50:1-23

1. *In the first section we see a vivid portrayal of God as the great judge of all the earth.* How does the psalmist refer to God? (v. 1) To whom does He send His “summons”?

2. From where has God “shone forth”? (v. 2) Now the psalmist pictures Him as coming out to do what? (v. 3-4)
3. What command does the judge issue? (v. 5) What do the heavens declare? (v. 6)
4. God first testifies against what people? (v. 7) What does the Lord say He will not approve or accept from His people? (v. 8-9) Should the Israelites have offered their sacrifices to God as if they were supplying some need of His that He could not supply? (v. 10-13)
5. What exactly was God wanting his people to do? (v. 14-15)
6. God secondly testifies against what people? (v. 16) What charge does God make to them?
7. Make a list of the things the Lord said the wicked had done? (v. 17-20)
8. How had the Lord first reacted to these things? (v. 21) Consequently, what did the Lord say the wicked thought about Him? But now what is the Lord doing?
9. So what exactly did God want those who have forgotten Him to do? (v. 22-23) What will happen if they do not do so? (v. 22) What will happen to the one who offers what pleases God? (v. 23)