

God Calls the World to Listenⁱ

1. From deepest East to furthest West it is the Mighty One who calls the world to listen.
2. God summons us to perfect beauty, on the sacred mountain's height,
3. And comes to earth no longer silent as before. For the voice of God is flaming out, as in a raging storm,
4. God beckons us from heaven, and summons us to court.
5. God speaks as judge and says, "Come all of you who in sacrifice bind yourselves to me,
6. And let my viewpoint speak. Let justice be the judge.
7. Hear me, my people, I am your God, I decry your evil ways.
8. I do not fault you for your offerings, your holocaust are clear.
22. So listen well all you who hear my words, but live as if I might not be, yet fear that I may come and seize you in my grip.
23. I've made my case, here's what I want, a sacrifice of thankfulness in all that honors me.

ⁱ NOTES:

1. This is a Psalm of direct revelation. It is God who is speaking to us and not the psalmist who is speaking to God. We hear directly the divine voice directed to humanity. It is a compelling voice, spoken by a judge who does not simply see the outside of things, but things in their fullness, inside and out.
2. Wisdom's words are transmitted through this Psalm, giving daily guidance and establishing balance of justice and goodness which have become unbalanced in society.

MEDITATION:

- A. Throughout Psalm 50 God is addressing us, speaking directly to our human condition and to the world in which we live. Some of God's instruction is directed to the particulars of Hebrew society, but much of it is universal and applicable to ourselves in the contemporary world. What part of this Psalm speaks to you?

Underline it. Write it down. Honor it according to the instructions given in verse 16: *“To the ones who live in wickedness, do not repeat the sacred texts, I say, not keep the law alive with lips alone.”*

- B. Notice that there is such a thing as *“practical atheism,”* spelled out in verse 22. Have you ever been a practical atheist? How have you expressed this inner condition in your outer life?

This translation, these notes and meditations are taken from *“ANCIENT SONGS SUNG ANEW: The Psalms as Poetry”* by Lynn C. Bauman