

Psalm 50

*A song of Asaph
to sing and strum*

The LORD our God has spoken to all men,
And He has summoned all the earth to Him
From where the sun arises till it sets:
From Zion's beauty God has now shone forth!

Our God is coming and will not be still:
Before Him goes a fire that devours:
Around His feet a tempest rages now.
[He speaks and all must listen unto him!]

He summons all those in the heav'ns above
And on the earth, to judge His people there:
"Now gather My devotees unto Me,
To make a covenant by sacrifice."

The heavens will declare His righteousness,
For God, the LORD, Himself is judge: Selah!
"Hear, O My people, let Me speak to you:
Israel, let me give witness of you!

I am the LORD your God and I alone:
I won't reprove you for your offerings:
You always bring a sacrifice to Me:
Your offerings are constantly to Me.

I will not take a bull calf from your home,
Not take a billy-goat from your own flocks:
The beasts that live in forest glades are mine:
The cattle on a thousand hills are mine!

I know each bird that on the mountain flies
And all tame animals are Mine as well:
If I were hungry, I would not tell you:
The world is Mine, and all that in it lives!

Do I, your God, devour the flesh of bulls,
Or do I drink the blood of billy-goats?
Thanksgiving is the sacrifice to bring,
And pay your vows to God, the One Most High!

Call upon Me on the day of distress:
And I will save you: you shall honour Me!"
But to the wicked God has said these words:
[Let them pay heed to the words of the LORD!]

"What right have you to recite all My laws,
And take My covenant upon your lips?
You hate instruction [and will not obey],
You cast My words away behind your back!

And when you see a thief, you befriend him,
And with adulterers you freely mix:
And you submit your mouth to evil things
And with your tongue you frame deceitful words.

You sit against your brother and you speak:
You find fault with the son your mother bare:
You've done these things, and I kept silent then:
You thought that surely I would be like you!

But now I will accuse you to your face,
You who forget God now must understand
Lest I in wrath should tear you all apart
And you have no one to deliver you!

The one who offers thanks and praise to Me
Gives honour to Me by that sacrifice,
And to the one who makes his pathway fixed
I will show forth the saving pow'r of God!"

Versified by Dr J.W.McMillan, 2 Roger Rd, Morphett Vale, SA, AUSTRALIA 5162