

## Psalm 49-50

Psalm 49 is another one of the contemplations or meditations of the sons of Korah. As for which son, or which descendant specifically we don't know. But by the mere mention of Korah's name we're encouraged again with the thought of individual accountability. Because Korah messed up in a major way, challenged Moses with regard to the ministry. Basically he accused Moses of thinking he was something special when in reality they were all "holy" to the Lord and well able to minister in more significant/higher profile kinda ways. Long story short God judged Korah in a radical way, took from him his life along with hundreds of people who supported him.

You know, I'm not saying that anyone is above reproach or should be respected in the sense that they're somehow better or more spiritual than anyone else. But when God appoints and ordains leaders in our lives it's very important that we learn to support them, and be submitted to them in the scriptural sense of the word as those who watch out for our souls as those who must give account. God places people in our lives for a reason, and when we reject our authority there is a sense in which we reject the Lord who placed the authority over our lives. Now I'm not saying your or my salvation hinges on our submission to leaders, salvation was given to us as a free gift through faith in JESUS CHRIST There's nothing you can do to earn it or somehow help insure it, the entire scope of salvation is God's gift through Christ and has nothing to do with our own works. However obedience to the word of God is one of the earmarks of the work of the Spirit of God in our lives. and It should be our hearts desire to want to be a blessing to our leaders, not a burden, to help them, not hinder them, to lift them up, not drag them down. Korah became a burden to Moses, stood in his way as a hindrance, wasn't encouraging him in the work but was rather discouraging him, dragging him down, dividing the people, and was acting as leaven permeating and polluting the people of God. and God dealt with him.

But here is one of his descendants being used of God in an incredible way, to pen His holy word for you and me. God didn't say, "Korah messed up so there's going to be a stain on the rest of his family from now on, they're all shelved, they're all shipwrecked, I'll never use his family again." God gives each of us individually an opportunity to come to Him, to submit ourselves to Him and be used by Him for His glory. Maybe you've come from an ungodly family or situation, doesn't mean it's destiny for you to walk in the same way, you can repent. You can break the chain and start a new legacy of godliness and holiness, you can let God use your life to touch others and make a difference in the lives of others through what He's done and is doing in you. Don't follow in the footsteps of unrighteousness, follow after the Lord, with all your heart and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

"A psalm of the sons of Korah." This psalm deals with an apparent problem that continues to surface over and over again throughout the book of psalms and that is the prosperity of the wicked.

Those who have no fear of God, no desire for God and yet they seem to do so well in this life; what are we to make of that sorta thing? The answer always comes down to what? The eternal perspective; the bible says, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Col 3:1-2 It’s when our mind drifts from the eternal perspective to the present that we start wrestling with these issues, the answer always lies in getting our eyes off of the things of this world and back on to Christ and those things above; that is the eternal.

For the righteous this world is as bad as it’s ever going to get, for the wicked this is as good as it gets. Life is but a vapor, stay focused on Christ, maintain the eternal perspective, it’ll help you prioritize and see things in a proper light, and not be so overwhelmed by the things of this world.

Vs1-4

I suppose the 1<sup>st</sup> thing we should note in these Vs is the fact that the meditation and exhortation found in this psalm carries a global appeal. In Vs 1 he says, “Hear this all peoples; Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,” and then in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vs he underscores the “nonexempt” aspect of what he’s about to say by including, “Both low and high, rich and poor together.” The essence being, “There’s no one exempt from what I’m about to say or share.” God is no respecter of persons, He gives no regard to the rich over the poor, or those in high society or upper class as opposed to a lower class or social outcast. Money and/or the esteem of this world does not impress the Lord at all. How can the Creator be impressed or overwhelmed by His creation? As we’ll note later, it’s all His anyway, if I’m worth \$10, and you’re worth \$10 million God sees us as no different, everything that gives us our “net worth” He’s created. Why would I be impressed if I gave you \$5million and then you boasted to me that you had \$5 million? I gave it to you, everything we have God has entrusted to us. So when His word goes forth it’s with out regard to social class, rich or poor or anything else. God only sees one “kind” and that’s “mankind.” We’re all on equal footing before Him.

So the exhortation is to “hear” and to “give ear.” The idea being to perceive or understand it and be obedient to it, “Listen up,” he says, “I’m getting ready to give you understanding, so listen with the intent to obey, I don’t care who you are, how much money you make, or what your social status is.”

He says, “My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.” How much foolishness pours forth from our mouths? How much time is spent thinking on and meditating in our hearts about pointless endeavors? We read in Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” and Having just gone over Mark Ch 7 in our Sunday morning gathering we’re readily familiar with the fact that what comes out of our mouths is evidence of what’s in our hearts; be it a bad attitude, ugly and unacceptable words that tear down, self centered intentions or any # of wicked things.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 104:34, “May my meditation be sweet to Him;” May God help us to have a heart that’s focused on and permeating with good things, godly things, things that build up, encourage and edify, things that give understanding and cause our mouths to pour forth in wisdom.

In Vs 4 the idea there is basically that he’s going to focus on the Lord, worship before the Lord, commune with the Lord and as he does he’s confident that he’ll receive insight and understanding from the Lord. He has a relationship with the Lord, he can go to Him and receive from Him, and you should anticipate the same from the Lord. As you spend time with Him, just worshipping before Him, you can anticipate hearing from Him, He knows how to lead you, how to speak to you when you need to hear from Him.

#### Vs5

The question comes up, who’s asking this question? Some say this would be the question of the psalmist. The emphasis being, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalms 27:1 and Again, “In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” Ps 56:11 and Considering the context of the psalm that may well be, it may be a bold declaration of faith in the midst of an ungodly generation.

Others see this as the prideful boast of a wealthy man who trusts in his resources rather than the living God. In the sense of Luke Ch 12 in the parable of the rich man who made a fortune and decided he’d finally earned the right to kick back, eat, drink and be merry taking confidence in his riches rather than relying on the Lord; no fear of God. and Considering the context of the psalm that may well be, it may be the prideful boast of arrogance out of one who doesn’t recognize their spiritual need because they have everything physically/materially they could hope for. Isn’t strange how that material wealth can blind a person to their spiritual need? The rationale being that if I have no physical need I must not have any spiritual need. Jesus warned the church of Laodicea in Rev 3 about their false sense of security thinking that because they were rich that they were just fine and He said, “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--” Rev 3:17 Material wealth is zero indication of spiritual health, if anything the bible declares that wealth is more of a spiritual hindrance than a spiritual help.

But either way you choose to perceive this question the impact and application of the psalm remains the same, and ultimately that application is to trust in the Lord and don’t buy the lie that lots of money makes everything ok.

#### Vs6-9

You see he immediately gets our eyes off the temporal and on to the eternal. Money might be able to buy a man a lot of things but it can not purchase the redemption of their own soul much less the redemption of another. “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him” Why? “For the redemption of their souls is costly.”

Sunday morning the scripture came up, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26 Now that ought to place a little perspective on the difference in the value system of man Vs the value system of God. To God all the ore in the earth isn’t enough to merit the purchase price of a single soul. Atonement for the soul isn’t found in things like silver or gold, diamonds and precious gems. The bible declares that blood is the only thing that can make atonement for the soul. Lev 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” and How exactly that transaction takes place I don’t know, but that’s the way God has ordained it.

Of course the problem as you know is that the blood of man is tainted by sin, it’s impossible that sinful man could atone for sinful man. Only the sinless can atone for the sinful; and that’s where Jesus comes in, the precious Lamb of God with out wrinkle, with out spot, tempted like you are and I am, yet with out sin. and It wouldn’t surprise me if Peter was thinking about this portion of scripture when he wrote, “...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18-19 Money can not buy you eternal life.

#### Vs10-12

Death is no respecter of persons, it’s the great leveler. There in Vs 12 the word “honor” speaks of value, or things that are precious, man may have all these precious possessions, seek to honor himself in naming buildings, high rises and roads after himself, but he’s still going to die. and Everything that he’s worked for, everything that he’s prided himself on will just be handed to someone else. Money can’t save you on this side of the grave, and it certainly can’t save you on the other side. People think that fame and fortune will just go on forever, but death catches up to us all.

#### Vs13-15

Vs 13 underscoring the foolishness of the mentality of trusting in material wealth, that’s the way of the foolish.

Those who stand to inherit their wealth, often times they’ll agree with them or stand behind them simply to try and get something from them, hoping they’ll be mentioned in the will or left something after they’re gone.

But like sheep they’re laid in the grave and death shall feed on them. Kind of an interesting personification of death isn’t it? The idea here is that death is their shepherd (McGee), in contrast to David who said that the Lord was his shepherd and rather than feeding the sheep, death feeds on the sheep.

However in contrast (Vs 15) “God shall redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me.” We noted in Vs 7-8 how that there’s nothing on this earth, no material thing that has the power to redeem a single soul. Then where do I place my trust, in what do I look to, who do I trust in? God alone is able to redeem my soul through the shed blood, death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST and In the end this is what it all comes down to, whether or not you’ve been redeemed through the power of the cross of Christ, has God redeemed your soul from the power of the grave?

#### Vs16-17

Paul said it like this, “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” 1 Tim 6:7 Riches can’t redeem you, you can’t carry them out of this life with you, as you entered this world so you leave it; with nothing. However you can send it ahead of you. Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt 6:19-21 The things you give to the Lord, the time you give personally, the gifts you give financially will be a reward for you eternally in heaven. Place your priority on eternity.

#### Vs18-20

A large part of this world is all about evolution; man has evolved, if anything the reality is that man has devolved. We were created in the image of God to have a relationship with God but through sin we forfeited that and spiral ever downward to the point that really apart from God we become not much different than the beasts of the field concerned for the desires and impulses of the flesh. Apart from the understanding that the redemption of the soul is found in the blood of Christ there’s not a whole lot that separates man from beast. “He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.” Having rejected JESUS CHRIST, the Light of the world they will be cast into outer darkness. Jesus spoke of the darkness that men will be cast into where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, Jude spoke of the blackness of darkness forever. Here we read that they will never see light. Oppressive loneliness and pain, we were created for fellowship with God, in outer darkness is isolation and loneliness, how can we stress enough the importance for people to turn to Christ for the redemption of their souls? It doesn’t have to be this way, Christ is ready and waiting to redeem any and all who will but come to Him and call upon Him. Satan came to kill, to steal and to destroy; Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly.

#### Ps 50

Psalm 50 is a psalm of Asaph, one of the 3 chief musicians/worship leaders appointed under David. Heman and Ethan being the other 2; and really this psalm is a call to quit playing games and get serious with God. It’s a reminder that God really will judge the earth in righteousness, that judgment begins in the house of God; and God will judge the religious for their formality apart from intimacy, and the rebellious for their straight up hypocrisy.

In that they profess to know God but in works they deny Him being abominable, disobedient and disqualified for every good work.

#### Vs1-6

Few things here quickly, Vs 1, “El, Elohim, Yahweh” “The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth.” 3 different words or names for God employed there, “El” the Mighty God, the one and only all powerful God, “Elohim” the plural form of the word pointing to the tri-unity of God, 1 God represented in 3 persons (The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit) and then the covenant name of God over the nation of Israel “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” has spoken. God has something to say, something He wants people to be mindful of

Vs 2, that out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. Underline that 1<sup>st</sup> phrase in Vs 3, “Our God shall come” Christ is coming again, and a fire shall devour before Him, it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. The bible is clear that when Christ comes again it’s going to be a radical scene. As the lightning flashes from the east and is seen in the west even so shall be the coming of the Son of Man, behold every eye shall see Him. When He comes there will be a radical upheaval happening on the earth, blood flowing in the valley of Megiddo for miles up to the horses bridle because of the war taking place that He comes in the midst of. He’ll touch down on the Mt of Olives and it’ll split in 2 from the east to the west and a river will run through the midst of it. But Christ will clean house, our God is a consuming fire, it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.

When it comes time to judge He’ll call the nations to Himself and we’ll all witness what’s going down. “Gather My saints together to Me,” and we’ll be witnesses to the fact that God judges the earth in righteousness.

Notice in Vs 6, “God Himself is Judge.” Now Jesus said, “...the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,” John 5:22 What does that mean? Simple, it means that Jesus is God.

#### Vs7-8

God is saying, “I have a problem with you, however it’s not due to your formality, it’s not because you don’t offer sacrifices or burnt offerings, you’re going through the right motions.” But as we’ll discover that’s just it, they’ve replaced the relationship with ritual, thinking that jumping through the hoops is what’s made them right with God. God doesn’t want our rituals, He wants a relationship. He doesn’t want us to jump through hoops, or go through motions, it’s not about the mechanics. It’s about knowing Him, walking with Him, developing our relationship with Him, not rituals before Him.

## Vs9-13

God is saying, “You’re bringing these animals to Me as though I need something from you, as though you’re doing what you need to, to take care of Me.” and He says, “You’ve got to be kidding Me I’m not going to take a bull from you, if I were hungry I wouldn’t even tell you, every beast of the field is Mine, the world and all it’s fullness belongs to Me, how then can you give Me anything and think you’re doing Me a favor?” This is what we were talking about earlier, God put all the ore in the earth, He created it all, how then can I give Him anything? If you gave me a million dollars and then one day I said, “You know, I’ve got a million dollars I’m going to give you 100,000!” How would that impress you? All I’m doing is giving back to you a portion of what’s already yours to begin with. and That’s kind of a modern application of this. Today God would say to us, “I don’t need your money, and even if I were broke I wouldn’t tell you, I put the ore in the earth, the diamonds of a thousand mines are all Mine. I know where every vein of gold lies upon the earth.”

Yet people have the audacity to propagate God as some poor beggar that’ll go bankrupt apart from your \$20 donation. Then we get to go around as though we’ve really done our part in making sure God’s work can carry on, how much we’ve sacrificed for God. God would just as soon we keep our money, He doesn’t need it. Now is it biblical to give? Absolutely, but not for God’s benefit, for ours, He doesn’t need it, we need to give it, because we’re selfish, we’re hoarders by nature, want it all to ourselves. But when we give to God we’re learning to die to self, we’re learning to be others oriented as He is, we’re recognizing that there are things that are more important than only what we want. We get to spill over out of our lives in worship to the Lord in the giving of ourselves to the Lord, we don’t got to, we get to. God doesn’t need our money. Notice Vs 14

## Vs14-15

Hey, don’t break your arm patting yourself on the back over how much you’ve done for God, how about being thankful for how much God has done for you? Wouldn’t be interesting (probably embarrassing and shameful) to keep a tally of our prayer times and tally up how often we gripe to God, how often we ask for something to be changed or done for us as opposed to how much thanksgiving we offer to Him for His goodness, and His graciousness, and His mercy in Christ toward us? Be thankful, be a man or a woman of your word before the Lord.

Vs 15 (read). You see it’s not rituals that God is after, it’s relationship. That you and I would call upon Him, and He will deliver us and we’ll respond spontaneously in worship and praise, glorifying Him. Who else do you know that actually, genuinely invites you to bring your problems to them? People don’t like to be bothered by other people’s problems, they figure they’ve got enough of their own. God says, “Bring them to me, I’ll deliver you, and you will glorify Me.”

## Vs16-21

God doesn’t forget the works of the wicked. and This is His word to the rebellious hypocrite, the one’s who profess to know Him but in works deny Him.

The one's who perhaps honor Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. and God is saying, "What are you doing quoting My word when you hate instruction and cast My words behind you?" There's no commitment, no allegiance to the Lord. and There in Vs 21 because God kept silent they assumed He was good with their charade. But God says, "I will rebuke you and set every one of your sins in order before your eyes." People so often make the tragic mistake thinking that because God doesn't immediately deal with their sin or their hypocrisy that they must be getting away with it. and They mistake the patience of God for the approval of God, God doesn't want people to perish, so He's patient, giving them time to repent. But too often that's mistaken for approval, or apathy, that God doesn't really care. God cares, and He'll judge the world in righteousness.

### Vs22-23

Notice, when judgment comes down there'll be none to deliver, no one can deliver you from the wrath of God. Remember that, and respond to that in a right way, repent, get your life right with God through faith in JESUS CHRIST "and To him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."

### Prayer Points:

God keep us from rebellion, keep us from ritualism and religion, and help us to foster a right relationship with You. and Lord though we talk about the rich in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person, to 80 +% of this world that's each one of us, help us that we not rely on wealth, but that we trust in You.