

Here Comes the Judge

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 50.

B. This psalm is a folk song.

C. These often depict courtroom trials—this one in particular reflects the time when “God busted me.”

II. The summons.

A. God is calling to His people in a courtroom scene.

B. God calls Himself El, Elohim, and Jehovah.

1. He is the one of strength—El.

2. He is the sovereign above all else—Elohim.

3. He is the God of mercy—Jehovah.

C. God as judge comes from Sinai.

1. Sinai stands for the mercy of God.

2. God is judging, but He is doing so in mercy.

D. God comes daily—we always live in the presence of God.

E. The character of the God who comes and judges: He is a mighty fire and a mighty wind.

III. The trial.

A. The Old Testament sacrifices are a picture of the sacrifice of Christ—we have entered into a covenant with God because of this sacrifice.

1. God does not condemn the sacrifices.

2. However, He rebukes the Israelites for thinking that He needed sacrifice.

B. The problem with the Evangelical church today.

1. We are strong in doctrine, but we are weak in practice.

2. We tend to be remote and uninvolved in the deep matters in life.

C. What God wants in worship.

1. God first wants a thankful heart.
 - a. Christianity is receiving something constantly from God.
 - b. You have to have received something to be thankful.
2. An obedient will.
3. A prayerful spirit.

D. The judge sees those who are wicked—the ungodly.

1. They hate discipline.
2. They reject truth.
3. They possess an ungoverned tongue.

IV. Promise.

- A. To the upright one, God will give salvation.
- B. This means that God is offering to give all He has for us.
- C. God is looking for men and women who have the strength to be what God created them to be.

Application questions:

1. God is calling His people to judgment in the passage—how does this relate to the church?

2. What experiences have you had that validate or disagree with the statement that the Evangelical church today is weak in doctrine?

3. Why is Christianity essentially receiving something constantly from God? How have you experienced this?
