

Psalms 50:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Analysis

The cosmic courtroom: 'He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.' Heaven and earth serve as witnesses in the divine lawsuit, echoing Deuteronomy 32:1. God judges 'his people'--the covenant community is called to account.

Historical Context

Covenant lawsuits (Hebrew *rib*) involved witnesses, charges, and verdict. Heaven and earth as witnesses appear in Moses' song, establishing the lawsuit pattern this psalm follows.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why are heaven and earth called as witnesses?
2. What does it mean that God judges 'his people' rather than pagans?

Interlinear Text

יִקְרָא	אֵל	הַשָּׁמַיִם	מֵעַל	וְאֵל	הָאָרֶץ
He shall call	H413	to the heavens	from above	H413	and to the earth
H7121		H8064	H5920		H776
לְדַן	עַמּוֹ:				
that he may judge	his people				
H1777	H5971				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

Deuteronomy 32:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Deuteronomy 31:28 (Parallel theme): Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

Deuteronomy 4:26 (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

Deuteronomy 30:19 (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: