

# 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

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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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֶּה קֹרֵב אֶל שְׁמָךְ מִלְּאָלָה מִלְּאָלָה  
He shall call H413 to the heavens H8064 from above H413 and to the earth H776

וְיִשְׁפַּט בְּנֵי עַמּוֹ  
that he may judge H1777 his people H5971

## Additional Cross-References

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**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: