

Meet The King of Glory

Psalm 24

1) 1 Timothy 3:16

“God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”

2) “Received up in glory,” is a reference to our Lord’s ascension back into heaven, something that the early church saw depicted in Psalm 24. Its background is perhaps the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem under David in 2 Samuel 6, or a celebration commemorating the event at a later date. The Psalm celebrates Jehovah as their Creator-God (vs. 1-2), their Holy-God (vs. 3-6), their Warrior-God (vs. 7-10).

I. Acknowledge His Creation. 24:1-2

The first 2 verses are something of a prelude of a hymn that celebrates Yahweh (Jehovah) as the great and victorious Warrior-King. Anyone or anything that attempts to lay claim on any part of Creation invites the Lord to become His enemy. Why?

1. The earth is completely His. 24:1

Lit. “To Yahweh [is] the earth and the fullness of it, the world and those who live in it.” Anything and everything belongs to the Lord.

2. The earth is rightly His. 24:2

- Verse 2 explains why vs. 1 is true, why the earth is completely His. In a word: He created it. He made it. He brought something out of nothing, an *ex nihilo* act of creation.
- And just who is this Lord who created all that is? It is the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2)
- The language of verses 1-2 look back to Genesis 1-2, and it also anticipates that new and eternal Creation of the New Earth of Revelation 21-22.

II. Hear His Challenge. 24:3-6

- Such an awesome and sovereign God may not be approached lightly or irreverently. He is a holy and righteous God who, as Habakkuk 1:13 says, “[is] of purer eyes that to behold evil...”
- In many ways Psalm 15 is a companion or commentary on vs. 3-6.

1) You must come cleanly. 24:3-4

- Verses 3-4 consist of 2 rhetorical and poetically parallel questions.
 1. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? This is a reference to Mt. Zion and looks back to Psalm 2:6.
 2. Or who may stand in His holy place? This looks back to the righteous man of Psalm 1 and anticipates the answer of vs.4.
- 4 things must be true of the man or woman, who would enter into the presence of the Lord and remain there.
 1. He must have clean hands → right actions.

2. He must have a pure heart → right attitude.
3. He must not lift up his soul (worship) to an idol → right actions.
4. He must not swear by what is false (*NIV*) → right attitude.

- It usually the priest, and in particular, the High Priest, who could enter the presence of the Lord. Who among us could meet perfectly and without flaw the 4-fold requirements of verses 3-4? There is only one who had such clean hands. See Acts 10:38, John 8:29, John 17:4, and 1 Peter 2:22. Again, it is Jesus.

2) You can come expectantly. 24:5-6

First, he shall receive blessing from the Lord (Numbers 6:24-26; Hebrews 10:21-23).

Second, he receives righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Third, He declares that those who receive the Lord's blessing and righteousness are liken unto Jacob and his generation, those who seek Him, who seek your face. In Genesis 32:24ff the Bible says, Jacob wrestled with God. Jacob named the place *Peniel*, "Face of God," for "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (v.30); Jeremiah 29:13.

III. See His Coming. 24:7-10

- There is some question as to what coming is in view in these final verses. Some suggest it is the Ark of the Covenant's return from battle. Others believe it is specifically the Ark's return to Jerusalem under the leadership of David (2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13). Still others view this as a liturgical hymn celebrating the Lord's kingship over His people and His presence with them as they gather for worship on the hill of the Lord, Jerusalem (v.3), and in His holy place, the temple (v.4).
- And yet the early church saw something greater and more transcendent to which these earthly enactments pointed (Hebrews 12:22). This entry is into heaven as the ascended Lord Jesus is met by the host of heaven welcoming home the victorious warrior Christ, the mighty King of glory.

1) Look for the King who is mighty. 24:7-8

- The gates are told to raise their tops and to throw open their doors as wide as possible. He must not stoop to come in!
- This great King is described as: Jehovah strong and mighty. Jehovah mighty in battle.

2) Look for the King of glory. 24:9-10

- 5 times in vs. 7-10 the Lord Jesus is called the "King of glory", the glorious King. He is strong and mighty, mighty in battle (v.8), because He is also the *Lord Sabbaoth*, the Lord of hosts, the Lord of armies (v. 10). See Ephesians 4:8-10; Hebrews 7:26.

Conclusion:

So we will proclaim His glory, and celebrate His fame.

The Lord mighty in battle reigns, Jesus the Christ His name.