

The King of Glory

Psalm 24: 1-10

The psalm we have read is credited to David. He is believed to have written this particular psalm as the ark of God was returned unto Jerusalem after a more than sixty year absence during the days of Samuel and King Saul. It is clearly a psalm of rejoicing and praise unto the Lord. Most agree David likely penned the words of praise that were offered in jubilation as the ark made its way into Jerusalem.

*“When the temple came to be built in Jerusalem various psalms were sung as part of the daily liturgy. On Monday it was [Psalm 48](#), Tuesday [Psalm 82](#), Wednesday [Psalm 94](#), Thursday [Psalm 81](#), Friday [Psalm 93](#), and on the Sabbath [Psalm 92](#). On the first day of the week they sang [Psalm 24](#). The very day that Jesus tore away the bars of death and marched in triumph from the tomb the temple choir was scheduled to sing this victorious psalm.”*ⁱ

Let's take a few moments to examine the [certainties](#) within this song of praise as we consider: [The King of Glory](#).

I. The Possession of the LORD (1-2) – As the people marched toward Jerusalem, bringing in the ark, they rejoiced in the great possession of their God. Consider:

A. The Fullness of His Possession (1) – [The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein](#). It seems apparent that David would have led this song of praise. Likely he pondered the goodness and grace of the Lord in his life. He had experienced much in his journey up to this point. He had known great joy and deep sadness, great victory and utter defeat. He had been surrounded by those whom he trusted and those who sought his life. There had been days of sunshine and days of rain, days of beauty and days of dreaded storms.

- Regardless of who or what David faced, he always knew God maintained control. He possessed the earth and all its fullness. He provided the wheat for bread, the figs for cakes, the refreshing streams of water, and the restful sleep at night. While there were times when it appeared the enemy had the upper hand, even then God maintained control. The earth and its fullness were His, along with all who dwelt within.

B. The Foundation of His Possession (2) – [For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods](#). No doubt David is drawing from the Genesis account of creation. The Lord formed the seas and the dry land. He placed the stars, sun, and planets in the sky. He set the bounds of

the vast oceans, limiting their reach. He formed the deep valleys and towering mountain peaks. David was well aware that God had created the earth and all who dwell upon it. Nothing had appeared by chance. It was all created by the powerful hand of God.

- This was a time of rejoicing and rest. God had given them victory over their enemies and Israel had prevailed. The great Creator had sustained and delivered them with His mighty hand. The people rejoiced in the awesome power and provision of their God. They knew He alone was God and none would ever rival His power or challenge His authority!

II. The Pursuit of the LORD (3-6) – Here the song reveals their pursuit and approach to the King of glory. Consider:

A. The Consideration (3) – *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?* Here the people pondered a question that mankind has considered throughout the ages. How does one enter the presence of the Lord? What is required to be accepted of Him and spend eternity with Him? As the people sang of the Lord, they were forced to examine their hearts and contemplate the means of fellowship with Him.

- We are far removed from this joyous occasion and yet the question remains on the minds of many today. Who will make it to heaven after death? What is required to gain entrance into the heavenly city? How is one accepted by God? Such questions lead to the next stanza in the song. In it we discover:

B. The Consecration (4) – *He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.* The Israelites understood the holiness and righteous nature of the King of glory. They knew His divine nature could have no fellowship with sin or iniquity. They well understood one had to be clean and pure to gain access to the Lord. While they could not have fully comprehended the coming of Christ and His great sacrifice, they knew righteousness was required to be acceptable to God.

- As these somber questions arise in our day, thankfully we have a definitive answer. If one is to ascend into heaven, standing before the holy and righteous God, righteousness is required. We had no means of obtaining such righteousness within ourselves, but God made the way for us. As Christ died upon the cross, providing atonement for sin, He satisfied the righteous demands of God. All who come to Him, receiving salvation through faith and repentance, have the righteousness of Christ imputed to their account. The saved by grace as viewed in light of the

holiness of the Son. We gain access to heaven and acceptance to God through faith in the only begotten Son. Salvation is available for all, and it provides the exclusive way to heaven!

C. The Reception (5) – He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. David and the others knew that righteousness could not be obtained through human means or effort; it had to be received from the gracious hand of God. Those who came before the Lord with a pure heart, received His blessing and salvation. God had set the righteous demand and He alone could provide the righteousness required. They rejoiced in the provision of grace received from the good hand of God.

- While we now live in the age of grace, on this side of Calvary, this principle remains. God's standard of merit has not changed and it never will. We remain unable to obtain righteousness through our efforts or worth. Man's only hope rests in the provision and grace of God. Christ died that all might be saved, but one must recognize their need and receive the gift of grace. Salvation comes from the Lord. Those who possess it and are acceptable to God are the recipients of grace.

D. The Distinction (6) – This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. While these were committed to seeking the Lord and living according to His precepts, many before them had not. Unfortunately, many sons of Abraham had denied the true and living God. All were Israelites by birth, but not all had been Israelites by faith. Rom.9:6 – Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.

- This truth remains today. Since God is the sovereign Creator, we are all created in the image and likeness of God. In essence, we are all the children of God, in that we all were created by Him, but all are not children by faith. All are part of the human race, but all are not part of the body of Christ. Many are very religious and committed to religious practice, but lack a genuine relationship with Christ. Being born into this life doesn't guarantee salvation; one must be born again through salvation in Christ. John 1:12-13 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: ^[13] Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

III. The Preeminence of the LORD (7-10) – As the song of praise concludes, the people focus of the preeminent nature of the King of glory. Notice:

A. The Question (8a, 10a) – Twice in this song, the people ask – [Who is the King of glory?](#) They did not ask because they did not know, but to raise awareness of the King of glory. They sought to create a desire in the hearts of others for the Lord.

- Likely most of those present know the Lord in salvation, but how often do we really ponder His deity and grandeur? We lack the ability to fully comprehend Him, but it would do us well to meditate upon Him. There are none like Him. He alone is the King of glory, our Savior and Lord!

B. The Supplication (7, 9) – [Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.](#) ^[9] [Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.](#) As the people reached the walls of the city, they cried out for the gates of the city to be opened for the ark, representing the presence and power of God, to come in. Their journey had brought them to the holy city and they would not rest until the ark was safe within the city walls. They desired the Lord to be among them.

- This is representative of humanity. Apart from Christ we are hopeless, desolate, and vulnerable. We have no hope of life or salvation. Our only hope is for the King of glory to come in. We must respond to His gracious invitation of salvation and welcome Him into our lives. We must be willing to step down from the throne of our hearts and allow the King of glory to rule and reign within our lives. Even after salvation, we must ensure that our hearts are free of sin and open to the Lord. I desire the Lord to be welcome in every aspect of life.

C. The Sovereign (8b, 10b) – Following their question of: Who is the King of glory? – The people responded with: [The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle; The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.](#) They recognized their King as the Sovereign of the ages. The LORD mighty in battle, the LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! What was there to fear as long as the King of glory was in their midst, working on their behalf? They were settled and secure in Him.

- I am glad I know the King of glory, the Lord of lords and King of kings, my Redeemer and Savior. I am also glad that He knows me. I rest in Him alone. He is the Rock of my salvation, my Shelter in the storm, the Anchor of my soul, and my eternal Guide. What have we to fear as long as Jesus is near?

Conclusion: Those who sang this song were familiar with the King of glory. Are you familiar with Him? Have you met Him in salvation? If so, there ought to be a song of praise on your heart. If not, I urge you to respond to His call for salvation. Come and surrender to the King of glory!

ⁱ John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring Psalms,
Volume One: An Expository Commentary.