

Empowering People to Change the World

Bring it On: Psalm 24 for 2024 Steve Holt

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Liz's Prophetic Dream: The Black Wave and the Higher Ground

Psalm 24 is the last of a triad:

- Psalm 22 tells about Christ the Savior;
- Psalm 23 tells about Christ the Shepherd; and
- Psalm 24 tells about Christ the Sovereign.

The Triad: Christ our Savior (Psalm 22), Christ our Shepherd (Psalm 24), and now Christ our Coming King (Psalm 24)

- Psalm 22: "My God, my God why has thou forsaken Me" The only place in the Scriptures where we hear the emotions of Jesus on the Cross– justification.
- Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" the greatest passage in all the Bible on God as our shepherd, guiding us-sanctification.

Now, Psalm 24 as Glorified, our King, present and future.

Stand and let's read Psalm 24

"The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. *Selah* [Think about this!] Lift up your heads, O you gates!
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory. Selah" [Think about this!]"

- Hebrew tradition tells us, Josephus and the Jewish historians believe this is when David was bringing the Arc of the Covenant up to Jerusalem from the house of Obed Edom. That's when David wrote this Psalm.
- Up to Jebu, the place of the Jebusites. Bringing the presence of God up to temple area.
 - Tradition tells us, Josephus writes, that this Psalm was sung every Sunday.
 - Josephus says David had seven choirs singing.
 - It was antiphonal. One group would sing verses 1-2 and then the next group would sing verses 3-4, then another group verses 5-6, and so on.
- Imagine thousands singing this. Tradition has it that the Jews sang it on Sunday every week.
- Remember Jesus coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Luke 19:41 He stopped and wept. Everyone is saying "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Jesus weeps. But they are now singing Psalm 24:7-10.
- Imagine Jesus wishing they understood that Daniel had prophesied to the exact day that He, Jesus, the Messiah, would come into Jerusalem: 173,880 days!
 Exactly to the day prophesied.

- Jesus said, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace. But now they are hidden from your eyes." He knows they don't get it. That this is the exact day that Daniel prophesied of the coming Messiah 476 years beforehand.
- Josephus says they had two choirs on Sunday. One was in the Kidron or Jehosaphat Valley and another choir up at the top by the East Gate.
- This is Palm Sunday and they have no idea what's happening! The choirs are singing.

"Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory."

- They are all singing this and He's sitting on a donkey <u>right there!!</u> Zechariah says the King comes humble, mounted on a donkey. <u>They don't even recognize He's</u> <u>sitting right there</u>. They have not recognized Him!
- Now in His Second Coming, it will be quite different!
- Jewish Tradition says that the Eastern Gate that is sealed up will be opened and when The Messiah comes, He will enter through that gate. The glory of the Lord will come through that gate. Isaiah 63, He will come from Edom, from the east, with garments dipped in blood.

Show a photo of the Eastern Gate in Jersusalem

- In 692 the Muslims built the Dome of the Rock and sealed up the Eastern Gate. In the 1500's Shulaman the Magnificent, under the Ottoman Empire rebuilt the gates of Jersualem on the gates laid before. In other words, the gates are built over the ancient gates in 1517. He blocked up the Eastern Gate. It's never been opened.
- The Muslims believe that Elijah will enter first and then Messiah. We believe Christ will come as the Lord of Hosts—the Lord of Armies.
- So, this is a little of the background.

Psalm 24

Verses 1-2

"The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters."

In 2024, some unexpected and unprecedented things are coming to the earth. But we believe that ALL of the earth is under the King who is bringing forth His Kingdom! His kingdom is coming on earth as it is in heaven.

- All of the governments are His. All of the economies of the earth are His. God is judging the earth and blessing those of the Kingdom of God! It's all His! He founded it, He created it, He established it. It's all His!
- Jesus owns the earth. He died for it (Psalm 22). He loves it. He loves you. This is His Kingdom territory.
- He is claiming His purchased position. Even in 2024, Jesus is possessing what is His.
- He is setting up His kingdom through His people.

There is only one Superpower! There is only one Supreme Court! There is only one Unshakeable Kingdom!

- It doesn't matter what Washington says, Moscow says, or Beijing says.
 - There is only ONE superpower, and it's Jesus Christ.
 - There's only ONE Supreme Court and it's His seated court.
 - There's only ONE kingdom and it's the Unshakeable Kingdom of God!
 - Jesus said, "All authority in heaven on earth are given to Me."
- Recent estimates tell us that there could be as many as two trillion galaxies in the observable universe.
 - We are in just one of those two trillion galaxies, the Milky Way Galaxy.
 The estimate of just the Milky Way Galaxy is that it has a million billion stars. Figure that out for yourself.
 - It's like a disc. It's 100,000 light years from one edge to the other. And here's our little sun with our earth orbiting around it on the edge. Yet God made our little earth the center of His redemptive plan. He made the earth

Jerusalem centric and He made Jerusalem Golgotha centric. This is the Kingdom of God! This is the superpower!

All of that laid out for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to reign!

Habakkuk 2:14

"For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea."

The earth is the Lords! He loves us. You love you. It's all His.

Verse 3

"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?"

- Everyone and anyone can stay where they are or descend. Going down a mountain is easy. Not everyone can ascend.
- To be in shape enough to climb the hill, the mountain of the Lord, takes training, equipping, and wisdom.
- God's calling to David is not to wait on God to meet him but rather to "ascend into the hill of the Lord." In other words, you must take the initiative and climb up.
 The question is Who can do it?
- What kind of person can ascend to God? What kind of person can make it to and stay on the higher ground?
- Most likely if this isn't a struggle, a reprioritization of your schedule, and tough choices, you're probably not ascending the hill of the Lord. This is hard.

Verse 4

"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully."

 No one here truly has clean hands and a pure heart in our own effort. Religion and good works are just filthy rags. Only the grace and power of God working within us can make us this kind of person. You are covered by the blood of Jesus if you have given your heart to Him...

Four Requirements for the Higher Ground

- 1. Clean hands—Morals.
- Quick confessions, short accounts with sin in your life.
- Quick confessions with people you've hurt.
- 2. Pure heart—Motives.
- Loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as we love ourselves.
- 3. Not given himself to idols—Material Things.
- Those things or people in our lives that we continually think and dream about.
 Something that is our comfort besides God.
- 4. Not been deceitful—Manipulations.
- It's not being a poser. Not being truthful. You're as sick as your secrets and as healthy as your honesty.
- We can't do this but Christ in you, the hope of glory, the blood of Jesus, can make you and build you into this kind of person. He can do it.

Verses 5-6

"He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face."

- We are the ones who will find His righteousness.
- Selah. Think about that!

Verses 7-8

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who *is* this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle."

- This is the Warrior God, coming in 2024 to fight our battles! This is not a passive god, like the deists speak of. This is not some god of the creation living as a tree or bush, like the Hindus teach. This is the "King of glory" who comes "strong and mighty, might in battle."
- He is the one ready to fight your battles. We will have to trust Him. We will be lifted up to His high places.
- We are being called to "ascend the hill of the Lord." To walk, live, and experience His Kingdom.

Psalm 91:9-16 The Lord is our Refuge

"Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge,

Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

No evil shall befall you,

Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

In *their* hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,

The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

'Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;

I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him,

And show him My salvation."

You will gain confidence as you have wisdom from the Lord during these days.
 God's going to share His secrets with those whom He loves. Psalm 25:14, "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him."

Verses 9-10

"Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory. Selah (Think about this!)"

- Five times "King of glory" is used. Think about that!
- David saw this. He saw the coming of the Ark of the Covenant being brought up to Jerusalem as a prophetic picture of the coming of the Lord. The coming of the Kingdom of God.
- But he saw something that was coming in the future, and it was sung on the eighth day, the first day of the week, on Sunday, the day of New Beginnings. Think of Jesus sitting there on a donkey hearing these words about Himself being sung.
- They didn't recognize His first advent. But He is coming as the Lord of Hosts.
- I believe the Kingdom of God is coming with great signs and wonders this year. I
 believe we will see Kingdom of God Jesus Followers in Kingdom of God
 Revolutionary Churches proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom of God on
 earth as it is in Heaven in 2024.

How do we Ascend to the King of Glory?

1. Lift up your head.

- Lift your head! See what God is doing. Don't overly focus on the news, on bad tidings. Focus on allowing the King of Glory to enter your thinking.
- The gates of your body; the gates of your life, is your Mind! Lift your mind and dwell on the promises of God, not the promises of men.

2 Peter 1:2-4

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that

through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

2. Lift up your Praise.

- The choirs were on the Eastern Gate and the Kidron Valley praising the coming King! Join them with praise and worship.
- Make worship and praise a key part of your daily life!

3. Welcome in the King of Glory.

- Start and end each day, welcoming Jesus into your heart, your life, your family, your job.
- You can't go wrong if Jesus is King over everything.
- You are welcoming in the Lord of Hosts, the Lord of Angel Armies!
- Bring it On!!

"Aimez-Vous Les Uns Les Autres"
(Love One Another)
Engraved above the doorway of the
400 year-old Huguenot church
in Le Chambon, France.

After Nazi Germany conquered France in 1940, the defeated nation was allowed to set up a government in the city of Vichy that would do Germany's bidding. For the rest of the war, France's Jews were deported to Concentration Camps and lived under fear. In the south, however, pastor André Trocmé led the people of his small village, Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, in resisting anti-Jewish policies.

The villagers sheltered Jews that came to them and helped over three thousand Jews escape to nearby Switzerland. The people conducted their activities as unobtrusively and secretly as possible, but they refused to show loyalty to the regime. When a high Vichy official paid a visit, schoolchildren presented him with a letter that ended defiantly: "We have Jews. You're not getting them."

Why did the Nazis not simply deport the entire village? The best explanation is that the villagers were <u>Huguenots</u>, descended from Protestants who had suffered greatly under Catholic persecution in the seventeenth century. They could empathize with their Jewish

brothers and sisters. They were also tough mountain people who knew the local terrain and had a long tradition of standing up to oppressors. They had learned a long time ago, that their convictions for the Kingdom of God were more powerful than any human government. And they were willing to die for what they believed in. Faced with the prospect of adding a fight against such people to their growing list of problems, the Nazis chose to look the other way.

The empathy, morality, and selflessness of this story is epitomized by the Bible verse that is permanently engraved above the doorway of the 400 year-old Protestant church in Le Chambon: "Aimez-Vous Les Uns Les Autres"— "Love One Another."

Welcome Jesus into your life this year; don't walk in fear; walk with love. Bring it On!

Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He *is* the King of glory.