

Psalm 24

Sunday, November 27th, 1988

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“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord or who shall stand in His Holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath never lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

“This is the generation them that seek the Lord, that seek Thy face O God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up ye 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 ye gates, even lift them up ye 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.”

I am going to speak today, from Psalm 24. Will you take your Bibles and turn with me to the Book of Psalms 24. There are ten verses in this Psalm. I’m going to read all ten verses.

This is a Psalm of David. David was the king of Israel and David was the man after God’s own heart. David, in this Psalm, clearly declares the true God. Oh, what a picture he paints of the true and living God.

He pictures us, the true people of God. He pictures where they came from, who brought them, and how they were brought.

He shows us the true Redeemer. He shows us the Lord Jesus Christ in a magnificent way. He shows us Jesus Christ in His full glory. Let’s look at it again, Psalm 24. Will you follow along in your Bibles? *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.”*

“Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord or who shall stand in His Holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath never lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

“This is the generation of them that seek the Lord, which seek Thy face O God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up ye 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 ye gates, even lift them up ye 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.”

In verses 1 and 2, we see the true God. Here is the true God. In verses 3, 4, 5 and 6 we see the true Israel. In verses 7, 8, 9 and 10, we see the true Redeemer.

All right, let's begin with verse 1: You follow along as I read and comment. Verse 1 says, *“The earth is the Lord's.”* Now, men live on the earth but the earth is the Lord's. Men live on the earth and they divide it into countries. They have their kings and their presidents. They have their monarch's and their parliaments. They have their congress and they have their senate. They call the land, “their land.” They have a flag and they say, “This is our land; this is our homeland.”

Men divide the earth into states and territories. They elect governors and they elect leaders. They fight over the boundaries. Men divide the earth into farms, ranches, lots, and estates. They issue Title Deeds. They have a folded up blue deed somewhere in their cupboard or desk. They say, “This is my land. This land belonged to my father, and now this land belongs to me and it will belong to my son.”

Well, I've got news for you; David said, *“The earth is the Lord's.”* It does not belong to us at all; it belongs to the Lord. In Job 41:11, Almighty God says; *“Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.”*

You and I are but tenants. We live on these farms and on these ranches. We have these lots and we live in these homes. We are but tenants and we are subject to eviction at any moment. Did you know that? The Great Owner of all things sits on the throne and laughs at the title deeds of the worms in the dust.

“The earth is the Lord's.” The earth is the Lord's in its entirety. It is the Lord's in its wealth. It's the Lord's in its life; it's the Lord's in its past, present, and in its future. *“The earth is the Lord's.”*

Look at the next line: *“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.”* What does that mean? Well, it means this; *“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.”* God made

the earth full, and He made it fit for life before He ever put a man on this earth. It was full and fit for life.

The earth had all the air he needed to breathe, all the food he needed to eat, and all the water he needed to drink. Everything he needed for survival or for any amount of people on the earth; God equipped it. God filled it, God completed it, and then God put man on it. *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”*

You see; the sea, the rivers, and the lakes are full of water. Despite all the water that you use and all the water that rises to the sun into the clouds, the sea, the lakes, and the rivers are still full. They have been full for thousands of years.

The waters are full of fish, despite all the people that feed upon them. Think of how many fish are caught every day. Think of how many fish are eaten every hour all over the world. Nevertheless, the sea stays full of fish.

The air is full of oxygen, notwithstanding all the lungs that breathe it. Nevertheless, all the animals and people breathe the air. After all, of these thousands of years, it is still full.

The soil is full though billions of plants, billions of trees, flowers, and vegetables are growing. Think how many blades of grass, trees, flowers, weeds, and vegetables draw their nourishment from the earth’s soil? Think of how many thousands of years and it is still full.

The earth is full of minerals, though millions take from it all the time. *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”* He keeps it full. He filled it and He keeps it full. No matter how long it will last, it won’t depend on you. We are parasites; we live off of it and God keeps it full. *“It is His and the fullness thereof.”*

In Colossians 1:16 the Scripture says, *“By Him were all things created in heaven and in earth and under the earth. All things were created by Him and for Him and by Him all things are held together.”* All things are held together.

All right, *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein.”* This is the true God. I am saying this, every creature, every person, all that dwells on this earth, belong to the Lord. They belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s right!

In John 1, where it says; *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God and all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made,”* that is Christ.

In Colossians 1:16 through 18, it says; *“For by Him were all things were created which are in heaven and in earth, dominions, principalities and powers; all things were made for Him and by Him. By Him all things are held together and He is the head of the church, the head of the body.”* He is the Lord Jesus Christ. That is who I am talking about.

These things are His and they are His by creation; He made them. They are not only His by creation, but they are His by decree. When He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He said; *“Father, Thou hast given Me authority over all flesh.”* When He sent His disciples out to preach, He said; *“All authority is given to Me in heaven and in earth.”* So, these things He has by decree and creation.

They are His by purchase. *“He died that He might be Lord, both of the dead and the living.”* They are His by administration. It says, *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and the government shall be on His shoulders.”* That means the rule of the entire universe shall be on His shoulders and *“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”*

It is not only His by creation, and by decree and purchase, but all things are His by administration. He controls it and He runs it. All the people are His. They are either His sons or His servants, but they are His. They are either His sheep or His goats, but they are His. They are either His vessels of mercy or His vessels of wrath. They are still His. This is the true God!

I’m not preaching an impotent God. I’m not preaching the powerless God that created everything and then ran away. I’m not preaching a God that depends on the creature. He said, *“If I was hungry I wouldn’t ask you.”* I’m preaching about a God to *“Whom all things belong. The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and all they that dwell therein.”*

Read the next line: *“For He founded it upon the seas.”* Here is the chief reason that the earth is the Lord’s. *“He founded it.”* He created it. It was God who said, *“Let there be light.”* It was God who said, *“Let the dry land appear.”* God said, *“Let us make man in our own image.”* He founded it; He created it. He purposed it and He planned it. He hurled it into space.

He separated the water from the land. *“He founded it upon the seas, the waters beneath and the waters above.”* One day, He covered it with water. *“Cannot I do with My own what I will?”* He said, “I won’t do that again; the next time I will destroy it by fire.” You see; *“He founded it upon the seas.”* You may say, “That is an unstable foundation.” Yes, and He is going to destroy that too!

John, on the Isle of Patmos in the Book of Revelation said, *“In that day the new creation, no more sea.”* That new heaven and that new earth are on the Rock, Christ Jesus. He is immovable.

Can you enter into the glory and the majesty of the true God; can you? I wish we could find out who God is, so that we could worship Him. I wish we could find out who God is, so it would not be true of us what Paul said of the pagans when he said, *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* I wish we could find out who God is, so that we might be wise men; *“The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord,”* I wish we could find out who God is, so that we might be saved men; salvation and eternal life is to know God.

Can you enter into the glory and majesty of the living God? He said in Psalm 50:10, *“Every beast of the forest is Mine. The cattle upon the thousand hills are mine. I know all the birds and the mountains. I call the stars by name. The wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine and the fullness thereof.”*

This is the true God, the Sovereign Almighty God of heaven and earth. *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and all they that dwell therein, for He founded it upon the seas.”*

Here is the true Israel, the people of God. The question is posed, *“Well, who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?”* What is the hill? We are not talking about these little 5,000, 4,000, 3,000 foot mountains that are around here. We are talking about the hill of the Lord. We are talking about the high heaven. Paul said, *“I went to the third heaven.”*

There is a heaven above this earth and there is a heaven above that. Then, there is the throne of God. That is what he is talking about here. Who is going to ascend into the heavens, the throne of God, the throne of His glory and the throne of His Majesty? *“Who is going to ascend into the hill of the Lord?”*

Who are the Lord's people? "*Who shall stand in His holy place?*" The question is not just "Who is going to mount up there and ascend up there to that awesome Light, Glory, and Majesty but who is going to abide there? Who is going to stand there? Who is going to dwell there? The answer is four-fold:

Look at the next verse: "*Who is going to ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who is going to abide in His presence?*" Who is going to dwell in His presence? Who is going to stand in that Holy place?

The answer is, "*He that hath clean hands.*" They have to be pure, perfectly holy hands that have never sinned, or never transgressed God's Law in any way, thought, word or deed; "*He that hath a pure heart*" who has never had a thought contrary to perfect Holiness or contrary to the will of God.

"*He shall stand in His presence who has never lifted up his soul to vanity.*" That is that he has a perfect love for God, God's will and God's way and has never thought contrary. His soul has never been in covetousness, pride, or lust in any way. His soul has never been lifted up to anything, except God.

Who shall stand in His presence? "*He who hath never sworn deceitfully,*" in other words, perfect truth. There it is! There is the true Israel of God. There are the true people of God. That is who is going to inhabit heaven. That is who is going to stand, the one who is going to ascend in the hill of the Lord and stand in His Holy Place. God says that. That is His Law and that is His requirements.

But, you say; "Preacher, that doesn't fit any human being on this earth." It does fit One, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall ascend into heaven, but He who came down from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ? But, He not only ascended into heaven; "*He sat down on the right hand of God.*"

Do you see that? I told you that if you ever look at God then you will see yourself. If you take a look at His Holiness, His Majesty, His Glory and Greatness, then you come to this conclusion, "*Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in His Holy Place? Who shall abide in His awesome presence? He that hath clean hands; He that hath a pure heart; He that hath never lifted His soul to vanity nor sworn deceitfully.*"

There is only One, and He shall receive the blessings from the Lord and "*Blessed is the man whom Thou chooses and causeth to approach unto Thee.*" That man is truly blessed. He shall receive the blessings of the Lord. "*Blessed is that man to whom God will not charge sin.*" That is Christ!

That is not only Christ, (now listen to me); that is the blessing and righteousness of all who are in Christ. Jesus Christ is a Righteous representative. He is a Representative of His people. You see; this Man Jesus Christ, this Man who came to the earth, this God-Man, is not a private person. He is a Federal Head and a Representative.

You see; *“In Adam all die; in Christ we are made alive.”* By the sin of Adam, we were made sinners, by the righteousness of Christ we are made righteous and holy.

Adam was a representative person. In Adam’s loins was the whole human race. God never made but one man and that was Adam. Everybody else came from Adam. We are the seed of Adam. *“The first man is of the earth, earthy and the second man is the Lord from heaven.”*

That is the new people; they are the new race. That is the Mediatoral Kingdom. Jesus Christ came into this world, as the second Adam, *“The Lord from heaven.”* There are a people in His loins. There are a people given to Him, a people whom He represents by His obedience and by His righteousness, love, and grace.

You see; Jesus Christ, the man, was perfectly righteous before God. He had clean hands. In Him was no sin. He had a pure heart. Even the Father said, *“I am well pleased. He never lifted up His soul to vanity.”* He said, *“Thy will be done.”*

He is the truth. Jesus Christ answered to the full character laid down by God for those who would ascend unto the hill of the Lord, and for those who would dwell in His Holy presence. Jesus Christ fulfilled everything that God laid down.

You see; I told our congregation that the throne of God is three-fold. There is the throne of His Glory and I don’t know much about that. There is the throne of His Justice, and I don’t want any dealings with His Justice. There is a throne of His Grace in Christ, Christ our Savior, Christ our Mediator, Christ our Representative, Christ our Intercessor and Christ enthroned.

I want something to do with that. I want to be represented by Him. That question is posed, *“Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord? Who is going to stand in His Holy Place?”* The answer is He that is in Christ. Christ is that man who has clean hands, a pure heart, whose soul is Holy, whose Word is true.

Now, notice the last thing that describes Him here, the true Redeemer: In verse 7, the voice says; *“Lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the*

King of Glory shall come in.” What gates do you suppose David is thinking about here? He’s thinking about the gates of that city, the gates of the new heaven, the New Jerusalem, the doors into the very presence of God.

Those doors and those gates had been bowed down and closed, to all who would enter in. No one has ever entered in. Lucifer tried, he said; “I’ll be like God; I’ll exalt my throne above the stars of God; I’ll go through the gate; I’ll go through the door.” The door never opened for him. Christ said, *“I saw him fall from heaven, like lightning.”*

Adam said, “I’ll be like God.” Instead, he was cast out of the Garden. God put a gate up and wouldn’t even let him back into the Garden of Eden. The builders of the tower of Babel said, “We’ll build a tower up there and we will enter in.” The gates didn’t open for them. Cain said, “I’ll do it by the works of the flesh.” The Pharisee says, “We’ll walk in the gates of glory in our robes of religion.”

God said, *“Depart from Me, for I never knew you.”* Those doors, those everlasting doors, those gates have remained shut. They have remained shut because no one has approached those doors or gates with clean hands, a pure heart, a Holy soul, and a word of truth.

You might say, “But wait doors.” *“Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors.”* Here comes One; He will enter in; He is the King of Glory. The voice comes back and says, *“Who is this King of Glory?”* Who would enter the doors and the gates of God and the hill of the Lord and stand in His place?

I will tell you who He is; *“He is the Lord, Strong and Mighty.”* He is able to do all that He promised. He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by Him. He is able to keep us from falling. He is able to raise our vile bodies, and He is able to make us like His God. He is able. He is the Lord, Strong and Mighty.

Who is this King of Glory? He is the Lord strong in battle, the Seed of woman who bruised the serpent’s head. He said, *“Satan came to Me, and found nothing in Me.”* He came to me and you and found plenty didn’t he?

Satan was the accuser of the brethren. He can find plenty right now too! He came to Christ and found nothing. He found clean hands and a pure heart, a Holy soul and a Word of Truth. *“He’s the Lord, strong in battle.”* Our Lord conquered!

On that cross of Calvary, He said; *"It is finished."* Who is this King of glory? *"He is the Lord of hosts."* What does that mean? That means that He is not coming alone. Christ is not coming alone.

Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended back where He was before. He came down to this earth to perform a task and to do a work. He came to fulfill a mission. He said, *"It is finished."* Then the voice cried, *"Lift up ye heads O ye gates"* and be ye lifted up you sleepy doors, with bowed heads, almost rusted from having never been opened to any creature, now open up and open wide, the *"King of Glory, the Lord strong in battle, the Lord mighty indeed, the Lord of Hosts is coming in."*

He is not coming alone. He is bringing with Him a *"Number which no man can number."* They are in Him; they are with Him and they are of Him. They are coming in too! He said, *"I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you I am coming back to receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*

The King of Glory says, *"Lift up your heads O ye gates and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors, the King of Glory is coming in."* The Lord of Hosts is coming in with a number as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore, a number which no man can number. He is entering in. Do you see that?

Oh, to learn these things. We ought to be taught these things. Who is the Lord God? May He be pleased to reveal Himself to us in His Majesty, in His glory, in His Holiness and grace?

Who are the people of God? They are the people in Christ, represented in Christ. All that God requires is fulfilled in Christ. Who are those who will be received into His presence? Those who go into glory in Him, and with Him, will be received in His presence.