

Psalm 24 is the final psalm in a trilogy. Psalm 22 presents Christ as the *suffering Savior*, Psalm 23 as the *Good Shepherd*, and here in Psalm 24, we see Him as the *glorious King*. This psalm declares God's universal ownership over all creation, reveals the qualifications for entering His holy presence, and proclaims the triumphant arrival of the King of Glory.

1. God Owns It All (vv. 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." (Psalm 24:1–2, NKJV)

The psalm begins with a sweeping declaration: everything belongs to God—the land, the seas, the people, and all the resources within. Why? Because He made it. He established the earth's foundations. He is not just a deity among many; He is the Creator and rightful Owner of all.

This truth grounds our understanding of stewardship. We do not own our lives, our time, or our possessions—God does. Our role is to manage what He has entrusted to us in a way that honors Him.

Personal Application:

Do I live with the awareness that everything I have belongs to the Lord? Am I holding His gifts with an open hand, ready to use them for His purposes?

2. The Question of Access (vv. 3–6)

"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?" (Psalm 24:3, NKJV)

This is the central question of the psalm. If God is the Creator and King, who can stand in His presence? Who is worthy to approach Him?

"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:4, NKJV)

Here we see that access to God's holy presence is not based on religious affiliation or outward performance but on inner and outer integrity:

- *Clean hands* speak of righteous actions.
- *A pure heart* refers to inward sincerity.
- *Not lifting the soul to an idol* means worshiping nothing or no one above God.
- *Nor sworn deceitfully* refers to truthfulness and integrity in speech.

This doesn't imply sinless perfection, but rather an honest, humble walk with God—characterized by repentance, trust, and a desire to obey Him.

"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." (Psalm 24:5–6, NKJV)

The blessing of God is promised to those who seek Him with sincerity and humility. This is the generation that seeks God's face—not just His hand, not just His gifts, but fellowship with Him.

Verses 3–6 describe the kind of people who will enter Christ's kingdom and participate in His thousand-year reign of peace and righteousness. These include the believing remnant of Israel—referred to here as Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel—and the redeemed Gentiles who will go up to Jerusalem to worship at the temple.

At first glance, it may appear that these individuals gain entrance into the kingdom because of their moral character. But Scripture makes clear this is not the case. Their righteousness is not self-produced; it is the result of spiritual rebirth. As Jesus told Nicodemus, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3, 5, NKJV).

Their clean hands and pure hearts are not the cause of their salvation but the fruit of it. They are the transformed people of God, made new by His grace and now seeking His face in worship and obedience.

Personal Application:

Is my pursuit of God about knowing Him, or simply receiving from Him? Do I approach God with clean hands and a pure heart—or have I allowed compromise and deceit to creep in?

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8, NKJV)

3. The King of Glory Enters (vv. 7–10)

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in." (Psalm 24:7, NKJV)

These verses shift dramatically from personal holiness to a royal procession. David likely wrote this as a liturgical psalm for bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:1–11; 1 Chronicles 13 and 2 Samuel 6:12–19; 1 Chronicles 15–16). But prophetically, it looks far beyond that event to the ascension of Christ, the second coming, or both.

The gates are personified, as if the city itself must prepare for the arrival of the One who reigns in majesty.

"Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." (Psalm 24:8, NKJV)
"The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory." (Psalm 24:10, NKJV)

This is no ordinary king. He is the Lord of hosts, the commander of angel armies, mighty in battle, victorious in every spiritual conflict. His kingship is absolute. His glory unmatched.

Christ in Psalm 24

Jesus Christ fulfills the portrait of the King of Glory in every way:

- He owns the earth by right of creation (John 1:3).
- He alone lived with clean hands and a pure heart.

- He ascended to the Father after His resurrection (Acts 1:9–11), and one day He will return in power and glory (Revelation 19:11–16).

When He entered Jerusalem on a donkey, few recognized Him. But when He comes again, every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10).

Personal Application

- **Ownership:** Do I acknowledge that I am not my own, but belong to the Lord who created me?
- **Worship:** Do I approach Him with reverence, seeking not just His blessings, but His face?
- **Readiness:** Am I living with a sense of expectation and preparation for the return of the King of Glory?

This psalm invites us to surrender every part of our lives to the rightful King. The question is no longer just, “*Who may ascend?*”—but rather, “*Will I let the King of glory come in?*” Not just into the city—but into my heart, my thoughts, my actions, my plans, my home?

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in...” (Revelation 3:20, NKJV)

Final Thought:

Psalm 24 is a call to reorient our lives. The earth belongs to the Lord—and so do we. The pure in heart will see God, and the King of Glory is coming. Let every gate be lifted. Let every heart be opened. He is worthy.