

The King of Glory

Psalm 24

April 14th, 2019

Big idea: Jesus is the King of Glory.

Intro

The psalms reflect the diversity and complexity of our experiences and our needs.

Psalm 22 – Powerful lament as David cries out, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?!

Psalm 23 – Tender affirmation that the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psalm 24 – Resounding declaration that the Lord reigns as the King of glory.

Psalm 24 is what we will cover today. It's another psalm of David. This would likely have been like a responsive reading or singing that would go back and forth between the worship leader and the congregation.

The Earth is the Lords...

For He has founded it...

Who shall ascend...

He who has clean hands...

Who is this king of glory?

The Lord...

1. The ***Reign*** of the King of Glory (24:1-2)
 - a. These two verses describe the breadth of God's ownership and rule.
 - b. It includes
 - i. The earth
 - ii. All the stuff on the earth
 - iii. All the people on the earth
 - c. The Hebrew emphasis is on the Lord, the first word is the Lord in the original language, which is their way of putting something in bold for emphasis.
 - d. Our world and the people in it are diverse in many wonderful ways – variety of languages, art, music, food, cultural practices.
 - i. And the Lord says that all those people are His.
 - ii. All who dwell in it are his – believers, nonbelievers, men, women, children, babies, Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Buddhists, atheists, Evangelical Christians – all are His in some sense.
 - iii. Not in a universal salvation sense in which no one perishes in hell, but in that there is a universal creation as image bearers and He has a universal claim on their allegiance.
 - iv. David, inspired by the Spirit, is declaring the God isn't just the tribal god of a small middle eastern country. He's Lord of all the earth.
 - e. It is His because He created it.
 - i. Uses the language of a founder of a city.

f. Helps with our fear

i. All people, even the strange and unfamiliar that may frighten us, are His.

1. Walt Kaiser, an OT scholar, would quote Psalm 24:1 with a twist as he worked through OT stories in class. He would say, “the world and all the Assyrians who dwell in it” ... or whatever the particular enemy was the was against Israel in that story. Even their enemies belonged to God and were subject to His ultimate control.

a. We might say, “The world and all the terrorists that dwell in it.”

2. My experience flying over Turkey and Azerbaijan and looking down at an unfamiliar landscape far from home and starting to feel anxious. I could see little pockets of communities and dry ground with steep ravines. It felt very *foreign*. And yet, the earth is the Lord and all who dwell within it.

ii. His world is not out of control.

1. Think about this in comparison with the neighboring pagan religions of the day.
2. Pagan gods were opposed to one another and constantly fighting or sabotaging one another – epic of Gilgamesh – gods decree to destroy mankind but the plan is leaked and one man builds a ship to save his life – the gods shrank and cowered after the flood. Or in school you probably learned about the Greek gods and their infighting and pettiness and the ways they would torment people. If that was your world, how could you have peace or sanity in it? No one is in control. One deity frustrates the design of another. Perpetual angst. (Dale Ralph Davis, adapted and revised)
 - a. But ps 24:1-2 is different. It all belongs to the Lord. He has infused his world with stability. He forms it and maintains it.
 - b. **Colossians 1:17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
 - c. **Hebrews 1:3a** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.
3. Doesn't mean there won't be tornadoes or earthquakes or floods, but it means that there is a general predictability in the created world, which makes both science and sanity possible, there is a certain steadiness about life in God's creation on which I can depend.

- g. The psalm makes a sharp turn by pivoting to the question, if God is like this, who can hope to come before Him? The answers show that God is not only mighty by Holy.

2. The **Holiness** of the King of Glory (24:3-6)

a. Who can approach this God?

- i. Who may ascend the hill of the Lord – the hill in Jerusalem that would become the home of the temple during the time of Solomon, David's son
- ii. Who may stand in His holy place?

b. The answer points to the need for personal holiness in order to come into the presence of a holy God.

- i. Clean hands refers to right actions

- ii. Pure heart shows that it isn't just actions though but attitude and will. The holiness must be all around, internal and external
- iii. Free from trusting something false - reference to idolatry
 - 1. Paralleled with trust
 - 2. **Psalm 25:1-2** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.
- iv. Honesty in speech
- c. Faced with these qualifications for admittance, I have 3 options
 - i. Lower the standards
 - 1. **1 John 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
 - ii. Deceive myself into thinking I qualify
 - 1. **1 John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
 - iii. Admit I am disqualified
 - 1. When I take the third route I am convicted which leads to repentance and restoration.
 - 2. The people of Israel would have faced the same realization.
 - a. **Leviticus 17:11a** 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls... '
 - b. **Romans 7:7b** ... I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."
 - c. In other words, we can convince ourselves that we meet the qualifications in Psalm 24 to come before God until we learn what God's qualifications are. Then we realize that it's not just the 'big sins' like murder or adultery that keep someone from God. It's coveting – jealously wanting what someone else has – their house, their marriage, their car, their promotion.
 - d. **Romans 3:19-20** Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.
 - i. That's why Romans 3 would say that every mouth is closed – we see what God's standard really is and we have "the knowledge of sin" – we see our guilt.
 - e. Consider the 10 commandments
 - i. Have you ever put something or someone before God?
 - ii. Have you ever taken God's name in vain – treating Him lightly by mindlessly using His name in anger.
 - iii. Have you honored your parents?
 - iv. Have you taken something that isn't yours?
 - v. Have you lied, even a small "white" lie?

- f. You might think, “Christianity is sad and depressing! It’s just focusing on guilt!” No, it exposes our problem and then shouts the solution.
 - 3. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - 4. That’s why Psalm 24:5 will go on to say that this person will receive righteousness from the Lord, from the God of His salvation.
 - a. He *needs* righteousness and is *provided* righteousness.
 - b. What God requires God supplies.
 - d. When we come to Christ, we are cleanse and forgiven but we are also changed so that we increasingly do have clean hands and a pure heart.
 - e. Verse 6 indicates that the people described in verses 4-5 are those who seek after God, and Jacob is used as an example of seeking God.
 - i. Jacob was a mess – he was a liar, a schemer, but he sought God and wouldn’t let God go unless He blessed him.
- 3. The **Might** of the King of Glory (24:7-10)
 - a. The picture is of a triumphant king entering a city from a victorious battle.
 - i. The gates are lifted up, the doors to the city are swung open wide.
 - ii. You can really hear the back and forth responsive reading/singing in this section.
 - b. God is described as
 - i. The King of glory
 - ii. The LORD – YHWH, the self-existent one
 - iii. Strong and mighty
 - iv. Mighty in battle
 - v. The Lord of hosts – over the angelic beings

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

The triumphal entry (Luke 19:28-40)

Along the way to Jerusalem the pilgrims would have been singing the psalms of Ascent

Psalm 121:1-2 A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? ² My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 123:1 A Song of Ascents. To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

Jesus entered, riding on a donkey

So why did Jesus ask them to get a donkey for him to ride?

He has been walking all over Israel for 3 years. He didn’t suddenly need a break.

Matthew 21:4-5 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'"

See the whole passage in Zechariah 9, given 500 years before this moment. Zechariah is a minor prophet with major impact - quoted or alluded to more than 80 times in the NT.

In intentionally fulfilling this prophesy He is coming in humility but also coming in clarity. He is not pretending that he is other than he is. He is the king. He doesn't stop the adulation and praise, even when told to do so by the Pharisees. In fact, he says that if he silences them then creation itself – the very rocks! – would cry out. That's bold. That's arrogant, if untrue. But it's not untrue!

They put their coats on the colt for him to ride on

They spread their coats and, Mark's account tells us, palm branches on the road

Perhaps equivalent to rolling out a red carpet from an airplane for a visiting dignitary

2 Kings 9:13 Then they hurried and each man took his garment and placed it under him on the bare steps, and blew the trumpet, saying, "Jehu is king!"

They quoted Psalm 118:26 – blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

- a. Jesus is the **Creator** and **Owner** of the universe.
 - i. **John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
 - ii. **Colossians 1:16-17** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- b. Jesus has **clean** hands and a **pure** heart.
 - i. **Hebrews 7:26-27** For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.
 - ii. **John 8:29** "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."
- c. Jesus is the **King** of Glory.
 - i. The triumphal entry was a small picture of this greater reality.



1

1. The **Reign** of the King of Glory
(24:1-2)

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:3a And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

2

2. The **Holiness** of the King of Glory
(24:3-6)

Psalm 25:1-2 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.

3

2. The **Holiness** of the King of Glory
(24:3-6)

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

4

2. The Holiness of the King of Glory
(24:3-6)

Leviticus 17:11a 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls... '

5

2. The Holiness of the King of Glory
(24:3-6)

Romans 7:7b ... I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

6

2. The Holiness of the King of Glory
(24:3-6)

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

7

3. The Might of the King of Glory
(24:7-10)

8

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

Psalm 121:1-2 A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? ² My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 123:1 A Song of Ascents. To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

9

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

Matthew 21:4-5 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'"

10

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

a. Jesus is the Creator and Owner of the universe.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

11

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

a. Jesus is the Creator and Owner of the universe.

Colossians 1:16-17 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

12

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

b. Jesus has clean hands and a pure heart.

Hebrews 7:26-27 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

John 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

13

4. Palm Sunday and Psalm 24

c. Jesus is the King of Glory.

14