

Who Shall Ascend Psalm 24

Ps 24:1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods."

"***The earth is the LORD'S, and they that dwell therein.***" King David reminds us that the Lord God is the creator of the earth, thus it is his possession. In the beginning, God created a man and a woman, and having designed, and commanded, them to procreate, therefore, all mankind are his possession.

"***For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.***" Do you remember? In the beginning, the earth was completely covered in water, and God caused the dry land to come up out of the water. This gives us the appearance of the earth being established on the waters. It is as though the dry land is sitting upon the seas of the earth. Do you realize; the earth has appeared out of the waters twice? Once in the beginning, and then again after the flood. The church of salvation by grace has appeared once on earth, and the whole church will appear again in the eternal heaven.

3 ¶ "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah."

To what does the "***hill of the Lord***" allude? There are several ways to look at this scripture and each will lead us to the same place in the end. David often refers to Jerusalem as the holy hill, or the hill of the Lord, as that was the place from which he ruled Israel, the place he brought the ark of God, and where Solomon built the temple of the Lord. It became the central place of worship for Israel.

Remember, David's was chosen and ordained by God to be king over Israel. Many attempts were made to usurp God's will. Not only from other kingdoms, but from within Israel. Even his own son attempted to dethrone David, from the rightful place in which God placed him.

As we consider, who shall be king over Israel; we understand "***Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?***" can simply mean; who has God chosen to rule and reign over his people Israel? David is saying, God has placed me here, not of my own will, nor of my choice, by his own choosing.

As we consider, who shall be High Priest for Israel; we understand "***or who shall stand in his holy place?***" God chose and gave instruction of who would be High Priest, through the lineage of Aaron.

Now David answers his questions. King David says: the one who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord and stand in the holy place is: "***He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.***" As we consider David's answer to these two questions; we are cited to the prophetic aspect of this scripture, how? Well, we only know of two people, who are by scripture defined as both King and High Priest, and they are Melchizedek and Jesus Christ. The first of these, Melchizedek, is the prophetic portrait of Jesus, who is the Christ, the King, and the High Priest forever. We read of this in Hebrews chapter seven.

Jesus claimed his kingship over Israel, God's chosen people, while here on earth. Completing the will of God the Father: by giving his life on the cross for the remission of the sins of God's people; by being buried in the borrowed tomb; by being resurrected from the dead; and by ascending back to heaven, where he is seated on the throne of God, residing as both King, and High Priest, forever.

We have further scriptural evidence that this is prophetic of Jesus Christ seen in: ***Ps 2:6-7; 6 "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 ¶ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*** Scripture declares that Jesus is the Son, who is the only begotten of the Father in: ***1Jo 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*** We have further proof of this testimony of Jesus in the closing verses of this Psalm.

7 ¶ "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."

The "***lift up***," spoken of here, is the opening of the gates into the city, Jerusalem. This is the visual image of doors that are lifted to open and lowered to close. Jesus, the door, descended to earth while the door of salvation by grace was shut to the church. When Jesus the Door ascended back to heaven, the door of salvation by grace was opened to the church. After all, Jesus is the only eternal door, or gate, by which God's chosen people are given access into the eternal abode of God.

"***Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.***" King David, and the Old Testament saints, had the expectation of God coming to earth to create an eternal kingdom here in this world. Jerusalem was where Israel expected that Christ would establish the eternal kingdom. This is why David expressed this sentence. David, and the Old Testament saints, did not understand that the kingdom of God, on earth, was not an earthly kingdom with national borders. Jesus told us this in: ***Joh 18:36 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.***" The kingdom of God, here on earth, is a spiritual kingdom, which is unbounded by national borders, and extends to God's people over all the earth.

As we consider these prophetic pictures, we come to understand "***Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?***" Jesus, the Christ, who hath ascended back to the eternal heaven and throne, is serving as both King and High Priest forever. Jesus is the open door, by which the church, all who are saved by the grace of God, shall ascend into the eternal heaven.

Being born-again and given eternal life, we believe, because our King and High Priest has ascended to the throne of God in heaven; we shall be carried to that eternal city, whose gates are eternally opened, and there we shall adore the one, who has ascended into the hill of the Lord, and who stands in the holy place. Hallelujah! Amen!