

Psalms Chapter 24 Who Shall Ascend

A Psalm of David

Ps 24:1 "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."

King David is reminding us that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and all those who occupy the earth. He is reminding us; evolution, and big bang theories, are just that, theories dreamed up, by the mind of a man who does not know, or refuses to acknowledge, God as creator.

Since God is truth, and his Word is truth, we know that King David speaks truth from: ***Ge 1:9-10; 9 ¶ "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."*** Wherefore, we know that God is the creator of the heavens, the earth, and all that is therein, seen in ***Ge 1:24-27; 24 ¶ "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 26 ¶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."*** God, through Jesus Christ, is the creator of all living things, including mankind.

Why did God create the heavens, the earth, and all things therein? It is God's plan and purpose, to have a people with which he can commune in the sinless New Heaven and New Earth. Why didn't God just create the perfect place to start with? If you are given everything you desire, do you know how to appreciate it? Do you know what a precious gift it is? No, you do not. How do we know this? When God created everything and he put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, where he communed with them, were they satisfied with their gift? No, and that is why they fell into the serpent's trap, and they gave themselves over to covetousness.

It is my belief that this world was created to be a proving ground, to prove who would love God, and continue in that love, and who would love sin and continue in that path. When mankind fell in sin the whole earth, heavens, and occupants, became sinful. Of course, this never caught God by surprise, because before God created, He had already made a covenant with God the Son to recover those whom he chose to be in the New Heaven and New Earth.

The definition of the word world? ***"the earth, as moist and therefore inhabited."*** Jesus Christ being the bread and water of life, has thus made the children of God, through the new birth, able to inhabit the land of promise, which is the New Testament Church.

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."

There is a double prophesy in these verses. Since King David wrote the Psalm, it was written with himself and Israel, God's chosen people, in mind, with the hill of God being Jerusalem where the ark of the covenant was, and the temple was to be built. In King David's mind this temple was already complete, even though the temple was not built until after his death. How do we know this? ***Ps 5:7 ¶ "But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple."*** This is a prophetic picture of David worshipping toward the temple that God had promised his Son Solomon would build, and in the eternal perspective, David worshipping toward the New Jerusalem, for David knew of the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?" Verses 3-5 give us the credentials of the one who has clean hands and a pure heart being able to ascend into the hill of the Lord. There is much conjecture about when this Psalm was written, however, I believe that it was in King David's older years, because that is when he desired to build a temple for the ark of the covenant, and to be a dwelling place for the Spirit and name of God.

But David in his older years had already committed adultery and murder. Yes, but when was he forgiven for those sins, which were both worthy of death? We find the answer to this in **2Sa 12:13** *"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."* God had already put away David's sins before he was confronted by Nathan the prophet of God. Since David's sins were forgiven before he confessed, he could be described as seen in **Ps 24:4** *"He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."*

Think about the high priest and his entrance into the most holy place. He had to offer sacrifice for his own sins, and the sins of all Israel, and then he could enter only with the blood of the sacrifice. This picture gives us the prophetic picture of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the only one in human form, in a prepared body, which was pure, sinless, and holy. Jesus was the only one, who was able to hang upon the tree of the cross, and give his pure, sin free, blood, as a sacrifice for the eternal remission of sins and the eternal salvation of God's people.

Prophetically, when God the Son made the covenant of eternal salvation for God's people before the world was, God the Son did not swear deceitfully. Coming to earth the first time Jesus fulfilled his covenant promise completely. His soul was not lifted in vanity, for He always ascribed all glory to God the Father. There was no other that could ascend the holy hill, for there was no person able to take his place. Remember that Jesus prayed in **Lu 22:42** *"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done."* This manifested that the life of Jesus was in complete subjection to God the Father's will, as ours should be if we are children of God.

But you say: Jesus did not die in Jerusalem in the temple. He did not physically die on the altar of sacrifice in the temple. However, Jesus did enter into the most holy place as High Priest, at his death, as seen in **Heb 9:11-12; 11** *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* This is how, and why, the veil between the holy and most holy place was rent in twain. Thereby, we can see the finished work of Jesus. The tabernacle is a prophetic picture of the New Testament Church, and the most holy place of the New Jerusalem. Once we enter the holy place, we look into the most holy place and see the mercy seat, Jesus our sacrifice for the eternal remission of our sins, and we understand that our righteousness is imputed to us through Christ, who is represented by the mercy seat.

Remember also, Jerusalem was upon a hill that was made holy by the presence of the ark of the covenant of God, for God had put his name there. Under the law ordinances, the Israelites had to bring a sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins. However, they would have already repented of their sins, or they wouldn't be bringing a sacrifice for sins. Therefore, the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins was for them to have peace in their hearts that they were accepted, and loved, by God, as seen in **Ps 24:5** *He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."* This is what gives us the picture of the New Testament Church. Because our High Priest has already forgiven our sins eternally, the New Testament Church gathers in congregations, all over the world, to be reassured that they are accepted and loved by God, and for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to give praise and glory to the name of God.

Ps 24:6 *"This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah."* Wherefore, prophetically, the born-again children of Israel, and the born-again Gentiles, (the New Testament Church) are the ones who would seek to ascend to the top of Mount Zion, to place themselves at the foot of the cross. They are dwelling in the land of promise because God has brought them out of Egypt, and into the land of promise. They recognize that God is their creator, and their Saviour, and they go there to pay homage to the LORD, which is what attending church does today.

Why do you say the born-again Israelites? **In Ro 9:4; 3** *"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. 6 ¶ Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the*

children of the promise are counted for the seed." The adoption, into the New Testament Church, was of the born-again Israelites, as demonstrated in verse 4. We, the Gentiles, are simply born-again as the seed, and are thus children of God.

"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." King David asks of us: **"who shall stand in his holy place?"** Whose holy place was it? It was God's holy place for his name was there. None could stand in the holy place except the priests of God, and the high priest, which is the picture of the New Testament Church, who are priests to God, and Jesus our High Priest. David tells us the necessary conditions that must be met. Those who have clean hands, and a pure heart. Prophetically, because Jesus Christ ascended the holy hill, those who have been born again, and made sinless in the sight of God by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, are able to ascend the holy hill. When you are born again you are imputed with the purity of Jesus Christ, wherefore, the Christ in you cannot sin, as seen in **1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."** It is only those who have received the gift of eternal forgiveness of sins, and eternal life, that **"shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."** Wherefore, **"This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah."** This is how we see the prophetic picture of the New Testament Church, both in time and eternity.

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."

In the bible, a gate is that by which we enter a walled city, and a door is what we use to enter the house of God, even as the tabernacle had doors. Gates and doors give us the prophetic picture of entrance into the New Jerusalem. Jesus tells us that the world is the field in **Mt 13:38; 37 "He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels."** I believe this world is a proving ground. Here we see that picture. How? Who will spend eternity with Jesus in the eternal heaven? The people in whom the good seed, Christ in you, has been sown. Who shall not spend eternity with Christ? Those in whose hearts the seed of the wicked one has been sown. The tares may infiltrate the kingdom of God on earth, but they will not enter the lifted up gates, or the everlasting doors, where the King of glory dwells. Secondly, the word of God tells us that God will destroy the heavens and earth that we know of today. This world is not eternal. It is the place of our pilgrimage, and the place where we are tested for clean hands and a pure heart, demonstrated by devoted worship of our God and Saviour.

Jesus Christ, the gate of the walled city, hath established the New Testament Church on earth, which is looking forward to the time of the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Oftentimes, walled cities had gates that were opened by lifting them up, not swinging them on hinges as we do doors. This gives us the picture of Jesus Christ, the door, ascending from earth to the eternal heaven, the place he has gone to prepare for God's people, which is the New Jerusalem, where the everlasting doors are never shut. They are lifted up in the open position all the time because there are no enemies, nor night, there as seen in **Re 21:25 "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."**

When King Jesus returns the second time, in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those who are alive and remain, all that go to the place Jesus has prepared will have clean hands and pure hearts. Then shall we be among that number described in **Re 15:2-3; 2 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."** There, we shall clearly see, with unclouded vision **Ps 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."** Hallelujah! Amen!