

THE PSALMS IN HUMAN LIFE

PART 8

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PSALM 24

A Psalm of David.

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.*

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.*

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.*

Campbell G Morgan in his commentary on this *Psalm* says; "This *Psalm* is the final Psalm of the three Psalms, which form or constitute a triptych of tablets upon which are written the story of Christ's life. The other two *Psalms*, which make up the trio, are the two preceding this one. **Psalm 22** speaks of Christ's Saviourhood, **Psalm 23** speaks of Christ's Shepherdhood. This *Psalm* speaks of His Sovereignty".

The whole picture portrayed here in the words of David who wrote the *Psalm* is that the Lord is the **Sovereign One**.

An analysis of the *Psalm* will highlight the following.

- He is revealed as **The Sovereign Creator**. verses 1 & 2.
- He is revealed as **The Sovereign Controller**. verses 3 to 6.
- He is revealed as **The Sovereign Conqueror**. verses 7 to 10

We will look at these points in some detail going through them systematically, which I trust will give us a clearer understanding of what is being conveyed in the *Psalm*.

1. **THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR** verses 1 & 2

Certain other things come to light as we look at this point, for I believe that David is stating something important here.

(a) The Seal of Ownership. *“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof”*. There is no uncertainty in the words of David as to whom the world belongs. Governments can have their territorial boundaries, stretching over land and sea. They can use force to extend their territory. However, not one of them can say that the earth belongs to them, because they are but custodians, or thieves of some of it. Only the Lord can put **The Seal of Ownership** on the whole earth.

The earth does what the Lord has told it to do. **Genesis 1 verses 11 & 12** says: *“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good”.

Genesis 8 v 22 says: *“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease”*.

“The earth is the Lord’s”.

(b) The Scope of Ownership. *“The world”*. The scope of His ownership encompasses the world, for no part of the habitable or non-habitable world is outside the scope of what He owns. What most of us own is very limited, however, that which belongs to the Lord is unlimited.

The gospel of **John 1 verses 1 to 3** says: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made”*.

Further, in **Colossians 1 verses 16 & 17**: Paul writes: *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together”*.

(c) The Subjects of Ownership. *“And they that dwell therein”*. The inhabitants of the world belong to God. It is therefore within His right, to do as He wills. It is within His right to see that certain people are in positions of authority; it is also within His right to remove them. When we think of what happened in the case of David, how that God chose his predecessor, removed him and then replaced him with David. There were of course circumstances, and also reasons, why the Lord removed King Saul, David’s predecessor, and gave the throne to David. We are His subjects and so He has the right to exalt us or to humble us.

As we consider this thought of the Lord as **The Sovereign Creator**, it is vital to take note of the dogmatic declaration of David, which is also a statement of affirmation from him, regarding the earth itself. He says *“For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods”*.

Paul said in **Timothy 1 verse 12**: *“I know whom I have believed”*. It is important to know, by faith, that the Lord is the creator.

Listen to these verses about water.

Genesis 1 v 7: *“So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so”*.

Genesis 1 v 9: *“And God said, Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear. And it was so”*.

Genesis 7 v 11 & 12: *“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights”.*

Exodus 20 v 4: *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below”.*

From these verses we see three layers of water. (a) **Above** the earth. (b) **On** the earth. (c) **Below** the earth. So what Davis wrote was true. *“For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods”.*

He is **The Sovereign Creator**.

2. THE SOVEREIGN CONTROLLER verses 3 to 6

(a) The Searching Question. verse 3: *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?”.*

Here is a very searching question for us to deal with, for not just anyone can ascend the hill of the Lord or stand in His holy place. The question demands:

(b) A Qualifying Answer. verse 4: *“He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully”.*

It is the hands, tongue and heart, that are organs of action. God sees us, He knows us, and can exclude us from ascending to the place which is the most wonderful place on the earth - the Holy place.

The violent, the evil doer, and the false, unreal, untruthful person, will never qualify to ascend the hill of the Lord or stand in His holy place. God is sovereign and by reason of this fact He can admit or otherwise in to His presence. The qualifying answer is followed by. The *Psalmist* highlighting:

(c) The Quality of the Reward. verses 5 & 6: *“He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him that seek thy face, O Jacob”.*

The hymn writer says “I take Him as my holiness my spirits spotless heavenly dress, I take the Lord my righteousness I take He undertakes.

Isaiah 61 v 10 says *“I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels”*. What a great reward for having clean hands and a pure heart, and being the generation that seeks the Lord.

1. THE SOVEREIGN CONQUEROR. verses 7 to 10

In verses 7 & 8 there is the first part of a dual anthem. The second part is in verses 9 & 10.

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”*.

Let us now put the *Psalm* in its proper place and setting for which it was composed.

The *Psalm* was written after Jerusalem had fallen to King David, let us read.

2 Samuel 5 verses 9 to 12 *“David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward. And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him. Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.”*

The reason for the composition of the *Psalm* is this. It was written for the home coming of the Ark of God. **2 Samuel 6 verses 12 to 17.**

12 Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David

went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.

13 When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might,

15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

This *Psalm* is about the **Sovereignty of the Lord**. Prophetically it depicts the creative conquering glory, and majesty of Christ, who descended, but has also ascended. He ascended the hill of the Lord, stands in the holy place, when He approached it, the gates lifted up their heads to let the King of Glory in. There was nothing that could keep Him out.

Further, when He returns and sets foot again on Mount Olivet, He will travel to Jerusalem to be enthroned as King - for *“The earth is the Lords”*.

Zechariah 14 verse 4: *“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”*

Eschatological (last days) commentators will tell us that the eastern gate of Jerusalem has been closed for centuries. I believe it is called the Golden Gate. At the revelation of Jesus, when He returns literally to the earth, it is believed He will go to Jerusalem and the cry will be “lift up your head you ancient gate, and the King of Glory shall come in”. The following verses refer to this.

Ezekiel 44 v 1: *“Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut.”*

Ezekiel 46 v 1: *“Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.”*

See the conquer mounts in triumph see the King in Royal state, riding on the clouds His chariot to His heavenly palace gate.

Psalm 24 shows that the Lord is: **The Sovereign Creator, The Sovereign Controller,** and **The Sovereign Conqueror.**