

## PSALM 24:1-10

### CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"We will call this Psalm, "The Song of the Ascension."

We learn nothing from the title but the authorship. Still this is interesting and leads us to observe the Spirit's wonderful operations on the mind of Israel's sweet singer. The Spirit's power enables David to touch the mournful string in Psalm 22, to pour gentle notes of peace in Psalm 23, and to utter majestic and triumphant strains in Psalm 24. We can do or sing all things when the Lord strengthens us.

David probably wrote this sacred hymn when the ark of the covenant was taken from the house of Obbedom (1 Chr. 15:25), to remain within curtains on the hill of Zion. The words are suitable for David's sacred dance of joy that led the way (1 Chr. 15:29). The psalmist's eye, however, looks beyond the ark to the sublime ascension of the King of glory. We will call this Psalm, "The Song of the Ascension."

This Psalm and Psalm 15 are a pair. It consists of three parts.

- The first part glorifies the true God and sings of His universal dominion, verses 1-2.
- The second part describes the true Israel, who fellowships with Him, verses 3-6.
- The third part pictures the ascent of the true Redeemer, who has opened

heaven's gates for the entrance of His elect, verses 7-10.

**The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.**

**For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. (Ps. 24:1-2)**

How different this is from the ignorant Jewish notion of God that prevailed in our Savior's day. The Jews said, "The holy land is God's. Abraham's heirs are His only people." Yet their great Monarch had long before instructed them that **the earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof**. The whole round world is claimed for Jehovah. **The world and they that dwell therein** are declared to be His subjects.

Man lives on the earth and parcels out its soil between his mimic kings and autocrats. Yet the earth is not man's; he is only a tenant at will, a leaseholder on the most precarious tenure, liable to instant eviction. The great Landowner and true Proprietor holds His court above the clouds and laughs at the title deeds of worms of the dust. The deed is not with the lord of the manor or the freeholder, but it is with the Creator.

**The fulness** of the earth may mean its harvests, wealth, life, or worship. In all these senses, the Most High God is Possessor of all. **Lift up your head, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah. (Ps. 24:7-10)**

These last verses reveal the great representative man, who answered to the full character laid down, and who by his own right ascended the holy hill of Zion. Our Lord Jesus Christ could ascend the hill of the Lord because His hands were clean and His heart was pure. If we by faith in Him are conformed to His image, we too will ascend. This verse (24:7) pictures our Lord's glorious ascent. We see him rising from the little group on Olivet, and as the cloud receives Him, angels reverently escort Him to heaven's gates (Acts 1:9-11).

Hearing the song, the watchers at the gate look over the battlements and ask, **Who is this King of glory?** This is a question full of meaning and worthy of the meditations of eternity. Who is He in person, nature, character, office, and work? What is His pedigree? What is His rank? What is His race? The answers are given in a mighty wave of music: **the LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

We know Jesus' might by the battles He has fought and the victories He has won over sin, death, and hell. We clap our hands as we see Him leading captivity captive in the majesty of His strength (Eph. 4:8). Oh for a heart to sing His praises! Mighty hero, be crowned forever King of kings and Lord of lords.

Dear reader, it is possible that you are saying, "I will never enter the heaven of God, for I have neither clean hands nor a pure heart. Look then to Christ, who has already climbed the holy hill. He has entered as the forerunner of those who trust Him. Follow His footsteps and rest on His merit. He rides triumphantly into heaven, and you will ride there too if you trust Him.

"How can you get the kind of character that is described?" The Spirit of God will give you that. He will create in you a new heart and a right spirit. Faith in Jesus is the work of the Holy Spirit. Faith stands by the fountain filled with blood, and as she washes, clean hands, a pure heart, a holy soul, and a truthful tongue are given. (*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

**Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD or who may stand in His holy place (Ps. 24:3)?** Ps. 15:1-2      Heb. 9:24

**What is being lifted in Psalm 24:7 and 24:9?**