

# Hungering for the PRESENCE OF GOD

## Psalm 24 - A psalm of David.

*v1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; v2 for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. v3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? v4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. v5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. v6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Selah v7 Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. v8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. v9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. v10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory. Selah*

This sacred hymn was probably written to be sung when the ark of the covenant was taken up from the house of Obed-Edom, to remain within curtains upon the hill of Zion. The words are not unsuitable for the sacred dance of joy in which David led the way upon that joyful occasion. The eye of the Psalmist looked, however, beyond the typical upgoing of the ark to the sublime ascension of the King of glory. We will call it The Song of the Ascension. Found in 2 Samuel 6:1-15

The Psalmist begins by firstly

### I. REMINDS US THAT WE ALL BELONG TO GOD - v1-2

*v1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; v2 for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

*"The earth is the Lord's." It is **Christ's by creation** Ps 24:2; John 1:1-2, John 1:1-3 v1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. v2 He was with God in the beginning. v3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

and it is **his by resurrection** Matt 28:18,

*Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

and **by his glorious ascension** into heaven, where he is enthroned King of the world in his human nature.

*Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

The Psalmist secondly asks

### II. DOES GOD BELONG TO YOU? - v3-6

*v3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? v4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. v5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. v6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Selah*

#### 1. HE DESCRIBES WHAT IS MEANT BY THE PRESENCE OF GOD. *v3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in **his holy place**?*

The Hebrew word for "HOLY PLACE" is qôdesh and means "apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness". Something so completely different that we could never even comprehend what it is like.

**2. HE REMINDS US OF THE STANDARD NEEDED TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.** *v4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.*

FOUR THINGS NEEDED TO ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

**PRACTICAL EXTERNAL HOLINESS** - Hand religion

**SPIRITUAL INTERNAL HOLINESS** - Heart religion

**FULLY FULFILLING THE FIRST COMMANDMENT** - *Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

**FULLY FULFILLING THE SECOND COMMANDMENT** - *Matthew 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

**Matthew 22:40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

**3. HE POINTS TO JESUS AS THE ONE WHO CAN INTRODUCE TO GOD.** *v5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.*

**ONLY JESUS HEARD THESE WORDS**

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 17:1-5 The Transfiguration

*v5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

*2 Peter 1:16-18 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. v17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." v18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

**4. HE ASKS THE QUESTION "DOES GOD BELONG TO YOU?"** *v6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Selah.*

HOW HUNGRY ARE YOU FOR JESUS?

ARE YOU WILLING TO DANCE NAKED BEFORE THE LORD?

The Psalmist thirdly ends by saying

**III. YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED - v2-5**

***v7 Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. v8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. v9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. v10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty--***