

Psalm 24

Introduction: Remember the theme of book 1 of the Psalms: God is faithful to His Word, that He is, despite all evidence to the contrary, on the side of the righteous and that He does fulfill His promise to support His king. (Grogan) Some see this as referring to 2nd Sam. 6. Others see this psalm referring to a military victory over one of the Canaanite tribes. The Ark of the Covenant is being carried back into the city. Still others see this as the return of Jesus as Messiah after the Tribulation.

Title: *A Psalm of David* (90% of the psalms in 1-41 have a similar title)

- 1) God's **SOVEREIGNTY** demonstrated over His creation—24:1-2 (He is awesome!)
 - a) God's sovereignty demonstrated in creation—24:1 ¹ *The earth belongs to Yahweh* (emphatic) *and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it,*
 - i) Sovereign over who or what? all creation is totally dependent on God, all the stuff (animate and inanimate, including plants, animals) and all the people (including terrorists and nice (but still sinful) people)
 - b) Because God provides stability to creation—24:2 ² *because He* (emphatic) ...
 - i) Past creation—*has founded it upon the seas*, (cf. Gen. 1:9ff)
 - ii) Present providence—*and maintains it upon the rivers*. (cf. Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3)
- 2) God's **HOLINESS** demonstrated in Jerusalem—24:3-6 (He is approachable)
 - a) Legitimate questions to ponder about who enters the gate—24:3
 - i) Approaching—³ *Who may ascend the mountain of Yahweh?*
 - ii) Remaining—*Or who may stand in His holy place?*
 - iii) Who should the Levites allow into the tabernacle/temple? Not everyone is welcome in God's house. Some are excluded.
 - iv) We must not assume that we can go waltzing nonchalantly and casually into the presence of the Great King. (Davis)
 - b) Explanation of holiness that makes us uncomfortable—24:4 (cf. Ps. 1:1-2; 15)
 - i) Generally
 - (1) Integrity of external action—⁴ *The clean of hand* (palms)
 - (2) Integrity of internal motive/thought/intention—*and the pure of heart*,
 - ii) Specifically
 - (1) Integrity of allegiance/loyalty—*who does not lift up my (his?) soul to what is worthless* (idols?),
 - (2) Integrity of speech—*and who does not swear an oath deceitfully*.
 - iii) Be overwhelmed by this, and then run to God's provision to approach Him by the blood of His Son.
 - c) Promises to those who meet God's requirements—24:5
 - i) Personal reception of God's goodness—⁵ *He shall receive a blessing from Yahweh*

- ii) Public acknowledgement of God's favor—and (He shall receive) *vindication/righteousness from the God of his deliverance/salvation.*
 - d) The model of seeking God in prayer—24:6
 - i) The pursuit is diligent—⁶ *Such is the generation of those who seeking Him,*
 - ii) The pursuit is desperate—*who are seeking Your face, Jacob.*
 - (1) Jacob was not worthy of God's favor, thus emphasizing God's freedom in granting His grace. But Jacob sought God's face and would not let Him go until He blessed Jacob (cf. Gen.
 - e) *Selah.*
- 3) God's **GLORY AND VICTORIOUS POWER**—24:7-10 (He is awesome!)
- a) Stanza # 1 emphasizing the Strong King—24:7-8
 - i) Welcome Him—24:7 ⁷ *Lift up your^{pl} heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors* (of Jerusalem), *and the King of glory will come in.*
 - (1) The gates are personified and expected to obey
 - ii) Worship Him—24:8 ⁸ *Who is this King of glory? Yahweh strong and mighty, Yahweh mighty in battle.*
 - (1) The gates are personified and ask who they should let in
 - b) Stanza # 2 emphasizing the Warrior King—24:9-10
 - i) Welcome Him—24:9 ⁹ *Lift up your^{pl} heads, O gates, and lift up, O ancient doors* (of Jerusalem), *and the King of glory will come in.*
 - (1) The gates are personified and expected to obey
 - ii) Worship Him—24:10 ¹⁰ *Who is this King of glory? Yahweh of Hosts/Armies, He is the King of glory.*
 - (1) The gates are personified and ask who they should let in
 - c) Remember the time when Israel thought they had God-in-a-Box and looked at the Ark of the Covenant as a good luck charm? (cf. 1st Sam. 4) How easy it is to have a distorted view of God.
 - d) This “King of glory” is picked up by Paul in 1st Cor. 2:8 as the “Lord of glory”
 - e) *Selah.*
- 4) Practical suggestion from Dale Ralph Davis
- a) Read 24:1-2 and then sing “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
 - b) Read 24:3-6 and then sing “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
 - c) Read 24:7-10 and then sing “Come, Thou Almighty King”
- 5) Truths for us to remember:
- a) There is no independent existence outside of God's will, authority, and power.
 - b) Those who come to God must come to Him on His terms because He has come to us on His terms.
 - c) Those who have been recipients of God's favor ought to publicly praise Him.
 - d) Those who trust in Him alone can be assured that one day, “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea.” (Hab. 2:14) This is what the psalmist prays for in Ps. 72:19.