

Psalm 24

Introduction – There is nothing schismatic about Christianity, for the claims of Christ are over the entire world, whether the world recognizes it or not; whether you recognize it or not. There is only one way to view the creating power and reign of God over His creation – and that is with great wonder, humility, and thankfulness.

This is Mine! I Made it! (vv1-2) – Why does anything exist that exists? (John 1:3, Gen 1:1). Why is there any dry, inhabitable land? (Gen 1:2-10, Psalm 24:2, 104:5-9). How did Yahweh do this? (Job 38:4-11, Heb 11:3). Existence exists, the world exists, its fullness exists, those who dwell exist, because God declared and declares it to be so (Col 1:15-17). Therefore the rights of the Creator over the creation are necessarily absolute. Evolutionism wants to deny this because fallen man does not want to acknowledge the Creator, His rights over it, nor give thanks to Him personally for it (Rom 1:18-23). We can even see the decline mentioned in verse 23 of Romans 1. Pagans used to believe in man-like gods and goddesses; now they believe in “creeping things” coming up out of primordial goo.

The Goodness of God's Creation (1 Cor 10:25-31) – Because God declared His creation “good” and “His,” Paul argues that those rights extend over God's created order even in the midst of paganism. This extends to meat offered up to idols, and to nations offered up to their gods (even of demons or humanism). Everything and everyone owes its allegiance to Yahweh as true and rightful King.

Who May Stand with Yahweh? (vv3-6) – In this beautiful stanza, the Psalm-singer makes clear that no one is saved by his holiness (because he has none) and no one is saved without holiness. We are told in many places that without holiness, no one will see the LORD (Heb 12:14). That holiness is identified with four characteristics. This one has clean hands and a pure heart. The God of the Old Testament was never interested in only outward ceremony (nor is He today). Devotion from the heart is required – and God judges the heart. But pure hearts do something with their hands as well and so faith without works is dead faith. Pure devotion to God who is Lord over all requires not offering up any part of one's life to an idol or to vanity. Truth must also come forth from the lips of the one who seeks to dwell on the mountain of truth. God hates liars and calls the devil the father of lies and deceit.

The Blessed Ones – In Adam, we all fell from our position of vice-regency and blessed fellowship with Yahweh on His holy hill. But holiness, righteousness, salvation and blessing has been bestowed upon those who are in the Second Adam, the Righteous and Holy One. It is not that doing vv3-4 bring forth vv5-6. Rather it is that those who are doing vv3-4 reveal they have been blessed from the LORD and have received righteousness from the God of their salvation. Many believe this Psalm harkens back to the return of the ark to Jerusalem recorded in 2 Samuel 6 where David danced in great joy. This is because the whole Old Testament ceremonial system pointed to just what is celebrated here: a substitutionary atonement, an ascension of the believer in the clean sacrifice, an recreation and reconciliation with God through His work in and through His High Priest on the behalf of His people. And so the Psalm-singer also sings of the fulfillment of these shadows which we see in Jesus Christ...

Lift Up Your Heads (vv7-10) – The gates of heaven were lifted up when the God-Man, Jesus Christ, the King of glory, ascended to the right hand of God the Father. A new Humanity was established and authority, lost to the first Adam, was given to the new Head of humanity. This King of glory is strong and mighty, mighty in battle. He has conquered sin, death, the devil, and Hades. Christ does not go in alone either. *“Blessed be God, the gates have never been shut since. The opened gates of heaven invite the weakest believer to enter”* – Spurgeon. Paul prays that we might see and understand that we have been raised with Christ, ascended with Him, to sit with Him in His position of Lord over all the earth (Eph 1:15-21, 2:4-10, esp. 2:6). Think of the celebration of the heavenly hosts when Jesus was announced as born and lying in a manger. Then consider the unending song of praise in heaven and over the earth as myriads of angels celebrate the Savior of the world.

Consider – *The earth is the Lord's and all it's fullness* – twice. First, by rights of creation. Second, by rights of redemption and conquest. What does this mean?

It means that there is not a non-religious moment in your life.

It means that we worship on the first day of each new week because the whole week is the Lord's.

It means that we offer our firstfruits to Him in our tithe because it is all His.

It means that His Lordship extends over every aspect of His creation – all principalities, all nations, all relationships.

It means that we love God and our neighbors – our brothers and sisters, and our enemies, because they all must render allegiance to the Lord. Every knee shall bow.

It means that after you have *“let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly,”* and after you sing *“psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord,”* that then, *“whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* (Col 3:16-17).