

The King Is In The House – Psalm 24

Rob Willey, Coram Deo Bible Church

Psalm 24. For the few remaining Elvis fans, this sermon is not about him. And for the even fewer NBA fans, it's certainly not about "he who must not be named." That king is not in the house. And growing up in the era of Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, and Michael Jordan, I'd beg to differ anyway.

I'm talking about *the* King this morning. The King of Palm Sunday. The King of kings – political kings, sports kings, demonic kings, all kings. I'm talking about the King of our lives. The King of our church. The King of the universe.

And as I do, I hope you're drawn to him all the more. I hope you bow all the more. I hope you follow all the more. I hope you love him, and worship him, and stand in awe of him all the more. Because King that he is, he deserves it. He deserves all the glory, and honor, and praise, and devotion we can possibly give. Especially when he's in the house.

Intro

Psalm 24 – A PSALM OF DAVID [a king himself]

[1] *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, [2] for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.* (ESV) Probably a reference to the pagan belief at the time that rivers and seas represented unpredictable chaos. Not true, David says. God controls it all and used it all to actually establish the world.

But the main point is that he owns it. Including us. *The earth is the LORD's [v1] . . . and those who dwell therein.* (1) We're his.

Which makes God so far above and beyond us that David asks in v3 – *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?* [Who can access him? Who can possibly attain the heights of glory to be in his presence?] *And [next question] who shall stand in his holy place?* Sacred and set apart that he is, who can be with him? And remain there?

[4] *He who has clean hands and a pure heart* [he who lives right and is right; which we know from the New Testament comes only through faith in Jesus], *who does not lift up his soul to what is false* [doesn't offer himself to idols, or buy into the thinking of the world, or accept the lies of Satan] *and does not swear deceitfully.* He doesn't bow to God in public but rebel in private. There's no fakery. *That's* the person who can access God.

And the result? [5] *He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.* Which we also know from the New Testament, is imputed to our account. When God saves us, he credits the righteousness of Christ to us, having taken our sinfulness on himself.

And the blessings flow; *first* part of v5. From the power and presence of the Holy Spirit and all the fruit that comes with him, to the joy of believing, the fellowship of the saints, and the assurance of our salvation. Praise *God* from whom all blessings flow.

[6] *Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.* Who pursue the God of our forefathers. *Yearn* to be in his presence. Long to know him.

And then, *Selah*. Probably meaning pause, or reflect, or praise. Or all the above. *Selah*.

And then he writes – [7] *Lift up your heads, O gates!* [As in pay attention! Take note!] *And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* As if to say, "we'll never get to *him*, but he'll come to us." *Lift up your heads* [oh ancient gates] . . . *that the King of glory may come in.*

And don't get hung up on heads, gates, and doors. They're just a poetic way of referring to the *people* of the city. People who represent *all* God's people. *All* who seek him. Lift up your eyes and open your heart to the King. The King of *glory*. The King of splendor. The King of wonder and majesty. Lift up your eyes, open your heart, and let him in!

[8] *Who is this King of glory* [he asks]? [Just to make sure we're on the same page.] *The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!*

And then he repeats himself; to add emphasis. Just like many of our worship songs repeat themselves. From hymns to choruses. It's biblical. [9] *Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* [10] *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah*

At face value this Psalm is a glorious expression of worship, and a poignant pattern for life. Proclaiming God as our creator and Savior, and urging us to open our hearts to him.

But I also think there's a prophetic foreshadowing here. A prophetic parallel that's fulfilled by Jesus on Palm Sunday.

Who ascended *the hill of the LORD*, v3, the hill of Mount Zion, and ultimately stood in God's presence? Jesus. Who has *clean hands and a pure heart*, v4? Jesus. Who received blessing from God, v5, by being raised from the dead? Jesus. And who entered not only the gates of Jerusalem, v7, but the gates of the temple? Jesus. There's a prophetic sense of this Psalm by virtue of the parallels.

Just as Yahweh – the *LORD*, v8, all caps – just as Yahweh is the King of glory, so is Jesus. Just as Yahweh is *strong and mighty*, so is Jesus. And just as Yahweh entered the city of Jerusalem, via the Ark of the Covenant, so did Jesus via a donkey. And stood in God's presence in the temple. And eventually the *holy place* of heaven. (Hebrews 9:12)

So *who is this King of glory?* In light of Palm Sunday, it's Jesus.

The King of glory is Jesus (Psalm 24:8)

God in the flesh. That's why the crowd on Palm Sunday went out to *meet* him as he was entering Jerusalem. It was an acknowledgement that he was God's King for God's city. And they explicitly *proclaimed* him as King. *Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!* (Luke 19:38) Because that's who Jesus is. The King of glory.

Not only that, but Paul says in **1 Timothy 1:17** – *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.* Paul could be referring to God the Father there, but after extolling *Jesus* in the previous verses, and talking about *him*, I think he has God the Son in mind. I think he's calling *Jesus* the King, and giving *him* glory. Because that's who he is. The *King* of glory.

Now, does that mean David was mistaken in Psalm 24:8? Saying that the LORD, Yahweh, is the King of glory? Did he get it wrong? Obviously not.

It just means that in the fullness of time and the fullness of God's revelation, there's more to it than what first meets the eye. Yahweh and Jesus *both* are the *King of glory*. Because both are God and both are one.

But in light of Palm Sunday, Jesus is the emphasis. *Jesus* is the King of glory.

And what a King he is. Far from a fixture or figurehead, like most kings in our day, Jesus is a warrior.

The King of glory is . . .

- **The warrior King (Psalm 24:8b)**

Look at v8 again. [8] *Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!* That's a warrior. Strong and mighty in battle.

What battle? The battle for souls. The battle for righteousness. The battle against the cosmic powers of darkness; and the *spiritual forces of evil*. (Ephesians 6:12) The battle for all that's right and good in this world.

Contrary to popular belief, Jesus isn't some wimpy pacifist cowering in the shadows. Or a namby-pamby who shrinks back and avoids the fray. And he's certainly not a king who sends us into battle alone.

He's a King who *leads* the fight; *strong and mighty* it says. A King who laid down his life in the fight. A King who lives to fight. Not with weapons of the flesh, but the Spirit. Not with implements of war, but the truth.

That's my King. The warrior King.

Is he yours? Do you know him? And fight the good fight with him? When he says "charge," do you follow? When he says fight, do you gear up? Put on the armor? I hope so. Because you can't lose. You can't lose with the warrior King.

Because he's also . . .

- **The omnipotent King (Psalm 24:10)**

Big word meaning all-powerful. V10 – *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts*. As in God Almighty. The one who has at his disposal and his command, the entire *host* of heaven. The *innumerable angels in festal gathering* the Bible says. (Hebrews 12:22)

Which makes him more powerful than all the other powers in this universe put together; seen *and* unseen. And not just barely, but infinitely. He's infinitely more powerful. Because he's God. Which makes him omnipotent. *All-powerful. All-mighty.*

That's my King. Is he yours?

Third, he's . . .

- **The divine King (Luke 1:32,35)**

Fully God, just like he's fully man. Like the angel told Mary just before he was born. He

would be *the Son of the Most High*. And a few verses later, *the Son of God*. God in the flesh. Implying that he's divine. Perfect in every way. Holy inside and out. Righteous through and through.

And I hope and pray that you not only know him, but want to know him more. Because there's far more to know. Far more to see. Far more to experience.

Fourth, he's . . .

- **The prophesied King (2 Samuel 7:12-14a)**

The King foretold and promised over and over again in the Bible. Like when God said to King David in **2 Samuel 7** – [12] *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.* (2 Samuel 7:12-14a)

Did you know that the book of Hebrews says that God was thinking of Jesus when he said that? Hebrews 1:5. A thousand years before he was born, God prophesied that he would bring forth a Son, *his* Son, from the lineage of David, and make him a King.

And just before he was born, the same angel who told Mary that Jesus would be divine, also told her that he would fulfill the prophecy. **Luke 1:32** – *The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*” (Luke 1:32b-33) The King of glory is the promised King. Prophesied and fulfilled.

I hope that fills you with awe and wonder. I hope that never gets old. I hope your head is lifted every time you hear it. The King of glory fulfilled *all* the prophecies. And still is.

But lest you get the wrong impression, that Jesus is only about kingdoms, and battles, and strength and power, he's also . . .

- **The humble King (Zechariah 9:9)**

We saw that most recently in John 13. When he wore the towel and washed the disciple's feet. Humble to the core.

As was his donkey ride a few days earlier. On Palm Sunday. Fulfilling **Zechariah 9:9b** – *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

When kings were famous for entering their capital city on the biggest and best stallions they could find, surrounded by all the might of their armies, a lowly donkey is nearly laughable. And a baby donkey at that.

But that's *our* King. Humble and lowly. Meek and mild. When he could have been mighty and powerful at the snap of his fingers. A mere word.

And that's not even the half of it. The cross was a whole 'nother ball game. A whole 'nother *level* of humility. And a necessary level. Because he's also . . .

• **The Savior King (Psalm 24:5)**

The King of glory is the King who saves. *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD*, v3, and stand in his presence? The one who repents v4, and receives *righteousness* [v5] *from the God of his salvation*.

Who is that? Who's the God of our salvation that enables us to enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise? Who's the one who enables us to boldly approach the throne of grace in time of need? Jesus. The One who saves. The One who rescues us from the bondage and consequences of our sin.

The God of our salvation is Jesus. That's why they welcomed him with shouts of *Hosanna!* Meaning Savior!

All of which makes him the Savior King. The One who "paid my debt and raised this life up from the dead!" The One who saved my soul and made me whole. That's *my* King.

Is he yours? Has he saved *you*? Rescued you? Freed you? I hope so. Because the Savior King is here for it.

In fact, he's . . .

• **The present King (Matthew 18:20)**

As we speak. Present among us. Not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. Jesus isn't just out there, in some nebulous sense, he's in here in a very real sense. "*Where two or three are gathered in my name* [he said], *there am I among them*." (Matthew 18:20) Among them.

You know what that means? That means the King is in the house! Right here, right now. Present and accounted for. And if that doesn't make your heart swell and your mouth sing, something's wrong.

"We welcome you with praise! We welcome you with praise! Almighty God of love, be welcomed in this place! Come in. Come reign. Come move." That should be our heart and on our lips every time we gather.

Because the King of glory is present. He's present. And there's nothing worse than turning your nose up at him. Nothing worse than ignoring the King in whose house we're in! Pour out your heart and give him praise. *Selah*.

And all the more because he's also . . .

• **The reigning King (1 Peter 3:22)**

So often we only think of that as future. But the fact is, Jesus is reigning right now. At the right hand of the Father in heaven. That's what **1 Peter 3** says. [He] *has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him*. (1 Peter 3:22) Placed under him.

That means he reigns. Present tense. Not just later, but now. "Glory, glory, hallelujah, he reigns!" Thank you Newsboys.

The question is, do you bow? He's the *reigning* King, but do you bow? Do you submit? Do you obey? Do you follow? Do you honor him?

I hope so. Because he's also coming again. Jesus is not only the reigning King, he's . . .

• **The coming King (Revelation 19:11-16)**

To reign in the flesh. Conquer his enemies, usher in the Millennium, and reign right here on earth. And eventually over a new earth. That's the pinnacle toward which the entire book of Revelation *leads*.

That day when Jesus comes again to judge and make war it says. His eyes *like a flame of fire* and on his head many crowns. And from his mouth *a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations*. And it says, *on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords*. (Rev 19:11-16)

The King of glory is coming. He's here and he's coming.

The question is, are you ready? Have you crowned him? Crowned him with all his other crowns. Crowned him as King of *your* life. Lord of *your* life.

Have you? If not, do it!

Crown him!

Crown him now. Crown him fully. Even over that secret sin you harbor. That grudge you hold. That situation you're trying to control. Crown him completely. Because he's not only coming, he's here. The King is in the house.

Summary

Which means *now* is the time to worship. *Now* is the time to lift up your soul. Now is the time for clean hands and pure hearts. "Crown him, crown him, King of glory! Crown him, crown him, Lord of all." Now's the time.

So let's stand, and *Selah*. Pause, reflect, and praise. Stand, and *lift up* [our] *heads* . . . *And be lifted up*. Because the King of glory has come, and he's in the house.

You Are Loved