

Psalm 24

Psalms 24:1 [NIV] *“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;”*

The theme of this Psalm is that everything belongs to God, the glorious Creator God, so let us worship Him and welcome His Second Coming to reign over all the earth and all humanity.

Because the physical earth belongs to God, all human beings are stewards or caretakers of this earth, not owners.

Therefore we should be committed to the proper management of this earth and its resources.

Genesis 2:15 [King James] *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”*

The very first human beings were commanded to *“dress and keep”* the environment that God had prepared for them.

The Hebrew word translated *“dress”* is *“abâd”* **meaning to till, work for and serve.**

The Hebrew word translated *“keep”* is *“shâmar”* **literally to hedge about, to protect and preserve by watching over it.**

Please do not overlook the words “all who live in it” that is inclusive of all human beings whether we acknowledge the ownership or even believe in the existence of a Creator God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [New King James] *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

The only reason we exist is that it is God’s will who owns us, having purchased us from *“death row”* where we were because of our sins against Him, [**Romans 6:23**].

Psalms 24:2 [New King James] *“For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.”*

The Psalmist is referring to **Genesis 1:9** part of the very original recreation of the surface of the earth to prepare it for human beings, [**Psalms 104:30**] after it had become *“without form and void and covered with darkness”* as a result of Satan’s rebellion against the Creator God, seeking to take over His throne, [**Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19**].

Psalms 24:3 [New King James] *“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?”*

The two words **ascend** and **stand** present to us a picture of worship when balanced with the main expression of worship to *“bow down”* before the Holy Creator God.

Ascend is to **mount up to a vantage point in God’s presence in heaven [Isaiah 2:2] with other seekers.**

Stand is a position **all human beings will do in judgement by our Creator Jesus Christ [2 Corinthians 5:10-12]** and accepted as part of the created Kingdom of God, the created family of God, [**Revelation 7:9**].

Psalms 24:4 [New King James] *“He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**, who has **not lifted up his soul to an idol**, nor sworn **deceitfully**.”*

Listed are the conditions involved in our being able to stand before God on His throne.

Clean hands –

Isaiah 1:12-15 [New King James] *“When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. **Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.** When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. **Your hands are full of blood.**”*

The attempt to approach God’s throne when we are ignoring His Holy days and keeping our own human appointed days for worshipping Him is likened to having “our hands full of blood,” hardly clean hands! [Isaiah 33:15].

1 Timothy 2:8 [New King James] *“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”*

Lift up our hands in appeal to God but be sure they are not guided by a person who is full of anger and doubt against their Creator God.

Pure heart –

A pure heart, Hebrew root word “*bârar*” meaning cleansed and purified is **not** something we can do ourselves but something that the Creator God has to do in us when we submit to Him and allow Him to do it.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The first step towards being cleansed, total surrender of our lives as a “living sacrifice” to our Creator God. The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” referring to total life, body, mind and human spirit, [Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27].

Then the Holy Spirit can re-educate our minds by the introduction of the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit, [Galatians 5:22-25] that is the very character of the Creator God.

Not worshipped an idol –

An “*idol*” can be in many forms, a physical image or picture of some being, an actual human religious leader, alive or dead, in fact any thing or person who takes “*first place*” in our lives, other than the Creator God, [Matthew 6:33].

Luke 14:25-26 [New King James] *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.’”*

The Greek word translated “*hate*” is “*miseō*” meaning to disregard one thing over another, [Luke 16:13; John 12:25].

To “*bear our cross*” means to crucify our personal will and accept the will of our Creator God, [Romans 6:1-13].

Sworn deceitfully –

Not make a rash promise we are unable to keep [Proverbs 6:1-5].

Swear to something we know is not true, that is to lie, dishonesty in any form, all of which hinders good relationships with other human beings.

Without honesty a relationship with our Creator God is impossible, for we are building a wall of self-deception that will hinder any move towards acknowledging our sins and repenting of them.

Psalms 24:5 [New King James] *“He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”*

Only after fulfilling these changes in our lives can we expect to receive blessings from our Creator God and vindication, that is true righteousness that is credited righteousness [Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24] that comes with faith and trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Psalms 24:6 [NIV] *“Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Selah.”*

This is alluding to the blessing of a personal “*face to face*” encounter that Jacob had with God at Peniel, [Genesis 32:30].

Selah –

From the root Hebrew word “*câlâh*” meaning to weigh the importance of what we have just read, [Psalms 119:113-118; Job 28:12-19].

Psalms 24:7-10 [New King James] *“Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you 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 you gates! Lift up, you 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.”*

Who is the King of glory, identified as Lord and commander of the heaven’s armies is the Messiah Himself, Eternal, Holy and Mighty, [Revelation 19:11-21].

This Psalm is not only a battle cry for the Church, it also looks forward to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His future entry into the new Jerusalem to reign over all humanity forever.

Again we need to weigh the importance of what we have just read and focus on the next greatest event to happen on earth among human beings, Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

The opening of the gates is symbolic of our accepting Jesus Christ into our lives now to rule all the thoughts and decisions we make, in preparation for this great event in human history.