

## ***The King of Glory - Psalms 24*** **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

### **Notes from the Sermon**

Christ is risen! The stone was rolled away, and Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb. This is what we celebrate on Easter. We put on pretty dresses and new shirts, eat ham and have a holiday with our family. For many, Easter is nothing more than a celebration of Spring, the welcoming of the pretty purple and white flowers on the trees that signify warming weather and the start of baseball. But for us as followers of Jesus Easter is our highest and holiest of moments. Welcoming Spring and new life is fairly safe and simple. Easter is not! Instead, that first Easter morning was the announcement from God that everything changes and all reality is now defined by a rugged cross and an empty tomb. I was struck by a quote in an article by Wheaton Professor Esau McCauley in an article he wrote for the *New York Times*. In the article he is making this very point, that Easter disrupts everything as he writes about the way Mark's Gospel is structured. "ark's ending points to a truth that often gets lost in the celebration: Easter is a frightening prospect. For the women, the only thing more terrifying than a world with Jesus dead was one in which he was alive."

The final Psalm for our *Greatest Hits* series is a Royal Psalm, a song about the rise of God's great King. As with all the Royal Psalms, there is a since in which it looks to the current sitting king as someone divinely anointed by God. Yet, all of these, and especially this one raises some serious questions about the human kings. Their role was to remember that God, as Creator is true ruler, and that they were nothing more than vice-regents who ruled on God's behalf. But this song ultimately raises the bigger question, who is the True King and how will we know when He comes. The song raises two questions taht helps us know the answer. First, it asks who can rightfully ascend the Hill of the Lord. This is a reference to Jerusalem as the capital where both the palace of the king (where the human king reigns) and the Temple (where God reigns as King) both sit. The Hill of the Lord is representative of God's presence, the place where He both rules and meets us. The presence of the Lord is the single thing that is most dangerous to us yet we need more than anything else. So who can ascend? The answer is simple, pure hands, clean heart, no idols or false worship, does not lie. This is a shorthand list of a longer list in Psalm 15, but even this list is enough. It indicts every king who ruled in Jerusalem. The line of kings reveals a succession of men who do ascend the Hill, but none of them are worthy. Even those who honor God as the True King still have major sin and idolatry issues. But it also indicts me. I want to be my own king, yet I too am a person of impure heart, unclean hands, lying lips, who turns to my own idols. I am not worthy.

Second, the Psalm then asks a second question, who is this King of Glory. In the Old Testament God's people will have 42 different kings. Each one, when he takes the throne is supposed to be this king, yet each one proves to be insufficient for the call. But Israel keeps singing this song. It was a reminder that the True King of Glory was Jehovah, their God. But the song looks to a person who rules for Him. The early church got it, they saw this Psalm as an aswer to the suffering King in Psalm 22 and knew that it was the empty tomb that gave us the answer to the two questions raised in the Psalm. Only Jesus is worthy to ascend the Hill of the Lord. He alone is a sinless substitute who perfectly keeps the Law and obeys the will of His Father. Jesus does ascend the Hill of the Lord, carrying a cross that he then falls beneath the weight. He is accused of blasphemy and crucified like a criminal. The empty tomb is the vindication of Jesus' perfect holiness and righteousness, God's declaration that He alone is worthy to ascend this Hill. But the empty tomb is also the vindication of Jesus' claim that in His appearance the Kingdom of God has appeared. He is the King Psalm 24 longs to see, the King whom Israel had been singing of for a thousand years. The empty

tomb is the first ancient gate and door that was flung open to declare, "Here He is, the King of Glory has come in!"

When any king approaches a city with his army (hosts, v. 10) the people in the city have two choices. They can drop the gates, defend the city, and seek to maintain their own authority. Maybe they will stand, maybe the strength of the walls and the power of their military can thwart the invading monarch. If not, the outcome was usually devastating. Or they can lift their gates and open their doors welcoming the king and submitting to his rule. At the empty tomb death, hell, and the grave fought back and Jesus blew the doors off of our enemies, defeating them eternally. Yet, He has appeared, but what will we do? The King of Glory cannot be defeated, yet we act like we can rule our own lives. Easter is the glorious declaration that the King of Glory has come in! If we lift our heads and see it, open the gates and doors of our lives, submit to His glorious rule and reign, what we will find is that the King of Glory will draw us up that Hill, into the presence of God, to be loved and known forever.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ezekiel 9	Ezekiel 10	Ezekiel 11	Ezekiel 12	Ezekiel 13	Ezekiel 14	Ezekiel 15

Reading from this past week: Psalm 24

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Luke 5

**Family Worship**

Song - *All Hail King Jesus*

<https://youtu.be/FTporlyY8rY>

Gospel Project

Story: Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection  
 Story Point: Jesus' resurrection gives true joy to believers.

Big Picture Question: What is the Gospel?

Answer: The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

Scripture: John 20

New City Catechism

Question #14: Did God create us unable to keep the Law?

Answer: No, but because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve we are all born in sin and guilt, unable to keep God's law

Verse: Romans 5:12

Scripture

Psalm 24

- How is the idea that God created everything connected to the truth that He is the King of Glory?
- What does the answer in verse 4 of the question in verse 3 say about who is worthy to ascend to the Hill of the Lord? Who is actually worthy to ascend this Hill?
- What are some ways that Easter declares to us that Jesus is the King of Glory?

Prayer

\*Rejoice and give thanks, because Christ is risen.

\*Pray for the growing division taking place in our city.