

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 24:1-10 (NASB)

¹ The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

² For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers.

³ Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

⁵ He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

⁶ This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—*even Jacob. Selah.*

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in!

⁸ Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

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.

Psalm 24: Psalm of the King of Glory

In all probability, this psalm was written and sung on the occasion of the removal of the ark of the covenant from the house of Obed-Edom to the city of David on Mt. Zion ([2 Samuel 6](#)). It was a day of triumph. Shortly after David had conquered the city of Zion from the last remnant of the Canaanites, this city was chosen as the center of religious worship. David brought the ark of the covenant to this city from Kiriath Jearim where it had been neglected for nearly fifty years.

It is difficult to conceive the deep enthusiasm of the people, both patriotic and religious, evoked by such an event. The land was now their own, the king of their choice reigned over them, and the most sacred emblem of God's presence and blessing was to have a special and permanent home. In solemn procession, with the accompaniment of music and song, the king, priests and people, with the elders of Israel and the captains over thousands, led the ark to its resting place on the holy mountain ([1 Chronicles 15:2](#)). The earth is the Lord's by His sovereign right as Creator. He made the earth and is sovereign over it and its inhabitants.

In [verses 3–6](#), David took this opportunity to remind the people of the fundamental principles of true worship. “*Who shall stand in His holy place?*” “*He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn*

deceitfully” ([verse 4](#)). Conscience that is not right in practical and common duties of life cannot be sincere in the solemn worship of God. Apart from Christ, none of us could stand before God. If we belong to Him, God sees us through the forgiving power of Christ and we are worthy through Christ to stand before a Holy God. Without Him, the best efforts of the worshiper are imperfect and impure. God gives us righteousness. It is a gift of grace. God will make us pure. It is not a product of man’s works. Those who receive righteousness are those who seek it from God. Our part is to recognize and admit sin. God then forgives through Christ. Not until known sin is confessed and forgiven can one truly worship God.

The King of glory enters into His sanctuary in [verses 7–10](#). The procession has reached the gates of the city of Zion. With rejoicing, the doors are opened and the echoes ring back to the procession the question, *“Who is this King of glory?”* The response, *“The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”* The Lord is victorious. He defends the right and defeats the wrong. The gates are silent and open. The Lord, enthroned above the cherubim of the ark, enters Zion. David was prophesying what we now know as history; Jesus descended from heaven to earth, lived a sinless life glorifying His Father, defeated death in His resurrection from the grave, and ascended to heaven once again in glory. Jesus will come again—*“The Lord strong and mighty. The King of glory!”*