

Title: “Your Kingdom Come”**[Slide 1]****Text: Psalm 24****Selfie?****Psalm 24:**

The Psalm that we are going to look at this morning is Psalm 24. Let’s stand and read it together:

[Slide 2]

*The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*

*for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.*

[Slide 3]

*Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?*

*The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.*

*They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.*

*Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.*

[Slide 4]

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

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

[Slide 5]

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*

The Creator King**“Team Vestas Wind”****[Slide 6]**

On October 11, 2014 seven 65’ state-of-the-art sailboats sailed out of Alicante, Spain for the start of the 2014-2015 Volvo Ocean Race. Lasting from October 2014 to June 2015, the race takes the contestants all the way around the world on a course of over 39,000 nautical miles.

[Slide 7]

Just a little more than a month into the race disaster struck “Team Vestas Wind” and its crew of nine. The boat was dashing across the Indian Ocean at 19 knots when, in the middle of the night, it ran smack into a coral reef and was left sitting in shallow water at the mercy of the surf.

“Team Vestas Wind” was equipped with all of the latest navigation equipment. Satellites tracked its every move. Its crew was among the best

on the planet. Nonetheless, somebody made a mistake that night, miscalculating the course through dangerous waters north of Mauritius. One minute, "Team Vestas Wind" was rocketing along on its way around the planet; just a few seconds later it was lying on its side on a lonely reef with its crew waiting for dawn.

Oceans and Rivers:

King David and his contemporaries would have well understood the fate of "Team Vestas Wind." For the people of biblical times the sea represented the forces of chaos and destruction that threatened to undo the Creation. In Canaanite mythology the destructive forces of chaos were personified in gods called "Sea" and "River." The Canaanites, or Phoenicians, were merchants who sailed the entire length of the Mediterranean Sea and knew just how unpredictable and violent it could be. Likewise a raging river, sweeping down from the mountains and carrying everything before it.

Israel's Exodus Story began and ended with God conquering these forces of chaos and destruction. Israel's journey began with God rolling back the waters of the Red, or Reed, Sea so that they could cross on dry ground. It ended with God holding back the waters of the Jordan River so that Israel could cross over into the Promised Land.

This conquering of the waters of chaos were seen as an act of new creation – like that of God taming chaos when He created the heavens and the earth. The Genesis Creation Story tells us that God took a watery chaos and transformed it into a place of life and blessing.

The King of Creation:

Psalm 24 begins by reminding us that the LORD is indeed the King of Creation:

[Slide 8]

Psalm 24:1-2 NIV

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*

*for he founded it on the **seas**
and established it on the **waters** [literally: **rivers**]*

David explains that the earth and its inhabitants belong to the LORD alone because He alone is the one who tamed Sea and River. He alone is King of Creation.

No wonder, then, that Jesus' disciples were so stunned when Jesus silenced a night storm on Lake Galilee and commanded the waters to be calm. He was once again "founding" and "establishing" God's Creation by defeating the anti-creation forces of chaos and evil. The King of Creation had returned to restore His world.

Embedded in these verses of praise and honor to the Creator is a promise that the rest of the psalm will unlock for us: the promise that when chaos and evil threaten our world, the same God who created the world will bring victory to us in our lives.

True Worship

The Question: Who can come to the LORD?

Originally Psalm 24 served as a worship song with parts being recited by the worshipers who were coming to the Temple, and parts being recited by the priests who served as its gatekeepers.

It begins with the worshipers asking a question:

[Slide 9]

Psalm 24:3 NIV

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

Here is the central question of the psalm: Who *qualifies* to be in God's Presence? What needs to happen for us to gain the blessing and protection of our Creator? The "mountain of the LORD" was pictured by the Israelites as a place where Heaven and Earth intersected. The rest of the world might be filled with evil, but the Temple was God's house. To come to the Temple meant to come into God's place of blessing and protection.

The Answer: Those who are clean and pure

The priest/gatekeepers answer from the Temple's doors:

Psalm 24:4 NIV

*The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.*

Hands speak of what we do; the Heart speaks of how we think and make decisions. No room for falsehood and deception. We must be pure in both action and motive. As David so beautifully puts in Psalm 19:

[Slide 10]

Psalm 19:14 NIV

*May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

False words and false accusations have the power to destroy everything good and beautiful in human relationships. Think of what it feels like to discover that someone you have loved and trusted has been lying to you. It shakes your whole world. Like the "Team Vestas Wind," you find yourself high and dry on a rocky shore with waves of doubt and disappointment battering you. No wonder Jesus had such harsh words for the religious hypocrites of His day! They would never gain entrance into the Presence of the LORD.

Creation Blessings!

And what is the reward for refusing to let our actions and hearts be taken over by deception? The gatekeepers tell the worshipers:

[Slide 11]

Psalm 24:5 NIV

*They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.*

The King of Creation will step into our lives and roll back the forces of chaos and destruction, deceit and evil. He will bring the blessings that can only

come from Him as Creator. And He will vindicate us from the injustice and deceit of a corrupt world. Most of all, He will save us, rescue us from disaster and ruin.

In the aftermath of the “Team Vestas Wind” disaster, there have been calls for a navigational warning system that would alert sailors to the danger in front of them. Isn’t that what God’s Word does for us when we are on the wrong path? As David says:

[Slide 12]

Psalm 19:9-11 NIV

*The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.*

*The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.*

*¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.*

*¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

“Your Kingdom Come...”

The Command: Open the Doors!

When God brought Israel out of slavery, He commanded the Israelites to construct a chest that would serve as His throne. It was called the Ark of the Covenant. Normally the Ark was kept inside the Temple, but on occasion it was brought into battle with the hope that God would fight for Israel against the forces that would destroy her.

Psalm 24 likely captures the moment when Israel’s army returns victorious to the Temple, bringing with it the Ark of the Covenant. As the Ark is brought up the stairs to the Temple, the worshipers cry out:

[Slide 13]

Psalm 24:7 NIV

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

God has fought for His people and won a great victory. Now it's their turn to sing His praises.

The King of Glory:

Two times the gatekeepers respond with a question:

[Slide 14]

Psalm 24:8a NIV

Who is this King of glory?

Two times the worshipers reply:

Psalm 24:8b NIV

*The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.*

Psalm 24:10b NIV

*The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*

The same LORD who conquered the forces of chaos and destruction when He created the world has won the victory over those forces when they threatened His people. He alone is the King of Glory.

"Your Kingdom come..."

In Jesus' prayer He instructs us to pray:

[Slide 15]

Matthew 6:10 NIV

*Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

When we pray these words, we are asking that the King of Creation bring His order and blessing into the chaos of our world. Like the worshipers bringing the Ark into the Temple, we pray that the gates and doors be flung open wide for the King of Glory.

The King of Glory is here today, offering to win the victory over the chaos and destruction in your world. He will not storm our walls or batter down our defenses. He waits for you and me to open the gates so that He can come in. As Jesus said:

[Slide 16]

Revelation 3:20 NIV

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

[Slide 17]

What gate can you open for Him today?