

*The King of Glory*  
**Psalm 24**  
**Rev. Keith Davis**

Beloved congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, I can still recall how as a child, riding the bus to school, my friends and I would get into these silly arguments over whose dad was the strongest. (Maybe you boys and girls still have arguments about that today!).

The argument would go something like this. Someone would start by saying, “My dad is stronger than your dad.” The other boy would respond by something, “*No, my dad is stronger because he can lift 100 pounds.*”

Then another someone else would chime in saying, *No, my dad is the strongest because he can lift 100 pounds in each hand.* So the argument would go. As you can imagine, it didn’t take long before the claims being made about father got totally exaggerated. After a while, it must have sounded as if each boy had superman-the man of steel--for his dad.

But all kidding aside congregation, I think that shows us how a child sees his father. To a small child, his father is almighty and all powerful. He can pick them up and hold them high over his head. He can playfully swing them around and tickle them or wrestle them with a single hand.

He is the man who protects the household, whom mom asks to open the pickle jar. He is the one to whom the family depends as a source of strength. Well congregation, when we, the children of God read Psalm 24 it sounds a little bit like the argument “whose father is the strongest”.

We read of all these great claims about God—how great He is, how glorious He is, how powerful He is. But you know what? There’s no debate. There’s no argument. There’s no quarrel or disagreement over this. And just as importantly, there is no exaggeration!

Psalm 24 makes it very clear that our heavenly Father, our Triune God, is the strongest, most powerful, most glorious and majestic god in heaven and earth. No one can rival his power and glory and greatness. All these claims are real; they are true; they are factual. Our God is great!

You boys and girls who attended Vacation Bible School this week, you have been learning all about God's greatness. So that's this Psalm 24 is good for us to consider today. Here we see that **God's People Sing Praises to the King of Glory**. We are given three reasons to sing praises to this King of glory:

- 1) **The Authority of this King (vv. 1-2);**
- 2) **The Sovereignty of this King (vv. 3-6);**
- 3) **The Majesty of this King (7-10).**

### **1. The Authority of this King**

Now when you think about it, beloved, what better way is there to establish authority over something than by claiming ownership of it? For example, let's say that you have three friends who are all fighting over your soccer ball; they each want to play with it.

Because you *own* the soccer ball, you have the authority to tell your friends that they have to share the soccer ball, or you will take it away. See, when you own something, you have the right to control it—to exercise authority over it.

The opening verses in Psalm 24 declare to us that God owns the world and He owns *everything* in it and *everyone* in it, and therefore God has authority over heaven and earth and man himself!

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it the world and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.* Now, maybe you boys and girls are wondering 'how can anyone actually own the world'.

It's one thing to own a house or to own a piece of property and say, "That belongs to me, it's mine." It's one thing to own a dog or a cat or a horse or a fish and say, *that's mine*. But it's another thing to look at all creation around us—to look not only at the earth below our feet, but to gaze up at the endless expanse of the sky, to stare up at the moon, and the sun, and the stars; to look out over the mighty oceans, the great lakes, the restless seas, to look at all the living creatures that swim in the ocean depths, or that crawl on the surface of the ground, or that fly in the currents of the air and say ALL THIS BELONGS TO ME!

That is definitely a mighty boast—a mighty claim to make! But this *is* something that our God can say. As amazing as it sounds to our ears, it's true--our God own the world! Do you boys and girls remember how it is that God can make this claim? Do you remember what gives God the right to say that he owns everything and everyone on earth?

What was the first lesson you learned in Vacation Bible School. What did the first precious jewel in your crown signify? It signified CREATION. That lesson brought you back to Genesis 1, where the Bible tells us that in six days the Lord God made the heavens and the earth.

On the first day God He created light, and He separated the light from the darkness. The light He called day, the darkness He called night. The second day God created the heavens—the firmament above. On the third day God created dry land.

That's really what Psalm 24:2 is describing. Vs. 2 indicates that the Lord God set the world on its foundations, as it were. The Lord God lifted the dry land, so to speak, from out of the midst of the seas. His hand separated the dry land from the waters.

And you see, it is only by the sheer power and divine will of God that the earth even exists. We know that, because later on, when God saw fit to punish man for his sin and wipe him from the face of this earth (all except believing Noah and his family), God allowed the waters of the deep to swallow up the dry ground again, to reclaim the dry ground.

And although God has promised never to punish the world with a flood of that magnitude again, He did say that on the Day of Christ's return He will burn up the elements and this earth with his holy purifying fire.

God can do that because He is King. He owns this world. All things belong to Him. On the fourth day God created the sun to rule by day; the moon and the stars to rule by night. The fifth day, God called forth fish to fill the oceans and birds to fill the skies.

On the sixth day God created animals to fill the earth--livestock, creatures and beasts that move along the ground. This was also the day on which God created man. And to man, God gave the duty, the responsibility, the charge of watching over all creation, of being a loving caretaker of all that God had made.

As Psalm 8 puts it, man was put in charge of all creation; man was made to be the ruler of the works of God's hand. That doesn't mean that man can rule with absolute authority. Man rules only with the authority that is derived from God.

So while we still see certain kings and nobles and princes lay claim to great and valuable treasures, to giant castles, to expansive kingdoms; and while they still claim to be a sovereign lord and king over a certain people, or a certain tribe or nation, the fact of the matter is, all the gold, silver and precious stones, all the hills and valleys, the honey from the comb, and the air that we breathe belongs to God.

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who dwell therein.* This means that all people that exist everywhere, of any and every generation, of every age, color, race, gender and creed belong to God--believers as well as unbelievers, men and women, young and old, black and white, slave and free, Jew and Gentile alike—all belong to God.

God is the King and Lord of all humanity. True, there are countless millions who have refused to acknowledge God's rule and reign. Not every man gives to the Lord the honor, the worship and the glory that He deserves. But stubborn unbelief does not for one moment change the fact that God reigns. God reigns and rules because He is the Creator God!

And here's the real rub as far as the world is concerned. Because Psalm 24 says what I do, because it states rather unequivocally that God is the Creator of heaven and earth, it means that God is free to set the rules for creation. God is free to set the laws, and the standards. God is the one who determines what is right and what is wrong.

How often haven't we heard people exclaim, "Who are you to tell me what is right and what is wrong"? "Who are you to judge"? "Who are you to declare what is moral and what is immoral, what is truth and what is falsehood"? Here's the answer: God says so!

As Creator and Sustainer of the universe, God has the divine fiat, the divine right to set the rules, to declare what is just and what is unjust, to discern between that which is righteous and that which is unrighteous. Ultimately, God our Creator has the divine right to decide who is set apart for His heavenly kingdom above, and who is set apart unto eternal condemnation in hell.

If you want to know why unbelievers hate God with so much malice, if you want to know why men so vehemently cringes at the slightest mention or hint of God, it is because man's autonomy is at stake. Man doesn't even want to consider the possibility that a supreme being sets the rules for life, and that this God is in sovereign control of his every thought, action, deed and decision.

Sinful man doesn't want to believe that God has a say (has authority) over any area of his life. That's why man has embraced the lie of evolution, because evolution teaches that nature is in control, and nature changes. Nature has no rules, nature has no morals, nature has no absolutes.

But when it comes right down to it, man embraces the lie of evolution because then man is king of creation, man is king of his world—his domain; then man is the king of his own destiny, man can live by his own rules and standards, and there is no one to whom man has to give an account.

But that's the way it is. The Bible tells us the way it is. The Bible tells us that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Therefore, no matter what men may say, all creatures, all peoples, all possessions belong to God, and all creatures and all peoples owe to God their homage and worship to Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.

They are his by right of ownership.

That's what the Apostle Paul declares in Philippians 2. He foresees the day (the day that is coming soon!) when every knee shall bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So it is that through Jesus Christ, through His change the fact that God is still the Lord of every man.

If you recall, this is what so enraged the Jews of Jesus' day. Here, they thought they alone were the Lord's people, His possession, His nation. Yet Jesus told them that he had others outside his flock that were also of His family i

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Those two verses tell us that God owns it. Before, God has served to establish God's ownership, it serves to establish his authority over heaven and earth.

That's what we have the right to