

Jesus, The King of Glory Psalm 24 6.15.2022

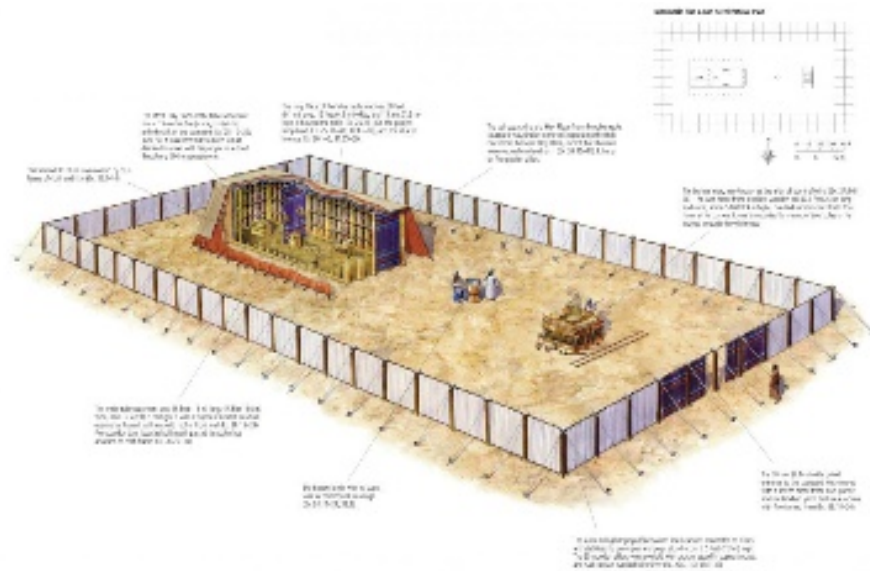
Turn in your Bibles tonight to Psalm 24. We are about to finish up our study of the Psalms that we had selected to teach from. Psalm 24 by many scholars believe David wrote this Psalm at the time that David had the ark of covenant returned to Jerusalem.

What is the Ark of the Covenant?

The Ark of the Covenant



After God used Moses to bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt, he commanded them to build a tabernacle as a place for worship. Animal sacrifices would be brought by the people to the tabernacle as act of worship for the repentance of sin in obedience to God. The priests from the tribe of Levi would prepare and sacrifice these animals upon the bronzed altar.



Within in the tabernacle there was a tent erected which had two parts. You had the Holy place, and then you had the Holy of Holies which was separated from the Holy place by a curtain or a veil. In the Holy of Holies was where the Ark of the Covenant was placed.

The Ark of the Covenant was a chest made of acacia wood, it was a little over 3 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep. The ark was overlaid with gold inside and out. Inside was placed what was called the testimony that God had given Moses. Which was what? The Ten Commandments, the law. In Hebrews Chapter 9 we are told that at some time an urn with manna and the rod of Aaron that put forth buds, and produced blossoms, as well as ripe almonds. This was not always the case. We see that when that tabernacle was built and when Solomon brought the ark into the Temple as detailed in 2 Chronicles 5:10.

What was described in it at that time was the Testimony, the law, the Ten Commandments.

The Ark of the Covenant was covered with a cover that was called, The Mercy Seat.

The Ark of the Covenant



The mercy seat, *also called the atonement cover*, was a solid piece of gold that covered the ark. It had two cherubim of pure gold placed on each end of the ark and their wings reached out towards each other and covered the mercy seat.

The High Priest was the only person allowed to go into the Holy of Holies and this was just once a year. The High Priest would enter in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, which was the 10th day of the Tishri, the seventh month of the Jewish Calendar.

First the High Priest had to bathe, washing his hands and his feet. The High Priest would bring blood from a bull and take his finger and sprinkle the blood upon the mercy seat seven times. He would then take the blood of a goat and would bring blood from the goat and sprinkle the blood seven times for the sins of the people.

Why seven times? In Scripture, the number seven means, complete. The atonement for sin was now complete.

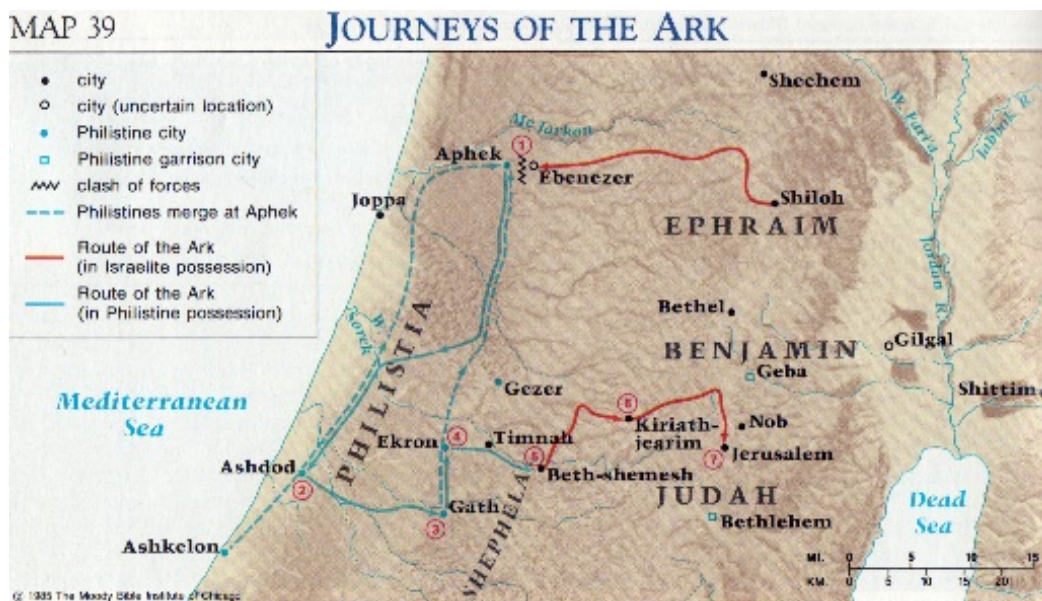
There is great significance around the Ark of the Covenant. It was here at the mercy seat of the ark that God would meet with Moses. It was here at the mercy seat of the ark that the presence of God would come and sit. It was here at the mercy seat of the ark that the atonement for sin was made complete.

Let's jump ahead approximately 500 years to where we are for Psalm 24. Under King Saul there wasn't much emphasis on the ark or worship for that matter. David shares this fact recorded in 1 Chronicles 13:1-4

1 Chronicles 13:1-4

¹ David consulted with the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with every leader. ² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you and from the Lord our God, let us send abroad to our brothers who remain in all the lands of Israel, as well as to the priests and Levites in the cities that have pasturelands, that they may be gathered to us. ³ Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul." ⁴ All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

The Ark of the Covenant at this time in history is in the town of Kiriath-Jearim.



Why was the ark in the town of Kiriath-Jearim? Even before Israel had cried out to God to have a King, they had a great nemesis that they always battle with. Who was that nation? The Philistines! I will have to give you the short version but here we go.

We find in 1 Samuel Chapter 4 to Chapter 7 how the ark became to reside in Kiriath-Jearim. The Philistines and Israelites were at war again. The Philistines defeated Israel and they captured the ark as well. The Philistines take the ark to their capital, Ashdod and set it up in the house of Dagon, one of their gods. The next morning the people went to the house of Dagon, and the idol that represented Dagon, had fallen before the ark. They set Dagon up and they come back the next day and this time Dagon had not only fallen before the ark. The head and the arms were severed from the trunk of the idol.

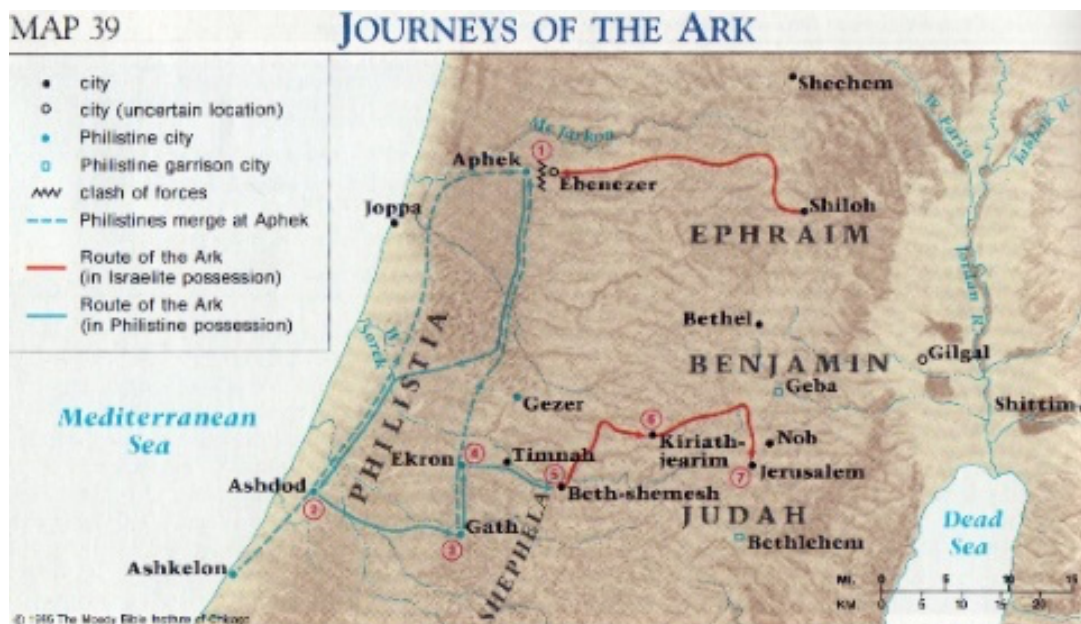
Then the people of Ashdod were afflicted with tumors. So they, said we have got to get rid of this thing! So, they send the ark to Gath and the same thing happened to the people there! Then they send the ark to Ekron and the people in Ekron cry, oh my goodness they have sent that ark here to kill us! Finally, the Philistines say, “We have got to send the ark back to Israel!” Kind of like three strikes you’re out! We had better get rid of this thing!

In Chapter 6 of 1 Samuel, we see the Philistines devise this plan to get the ark back to Israel. They put the ark on a cart and yoked two milk cows to the cart. They send the cart off, they don’t lead it, they send it off and they said if it returns to its own land to Beth-Shemesh we will know it was the God of Israel that did all this to us.

And that is exactly what happened the ark ended up in Beth-Shemesh. But, there was an incident there. The men of Beth-Shemesh looked into the ark and they were not supposed to and many of them died. Their worship was not properly offered to the Lord and because of that they now needed to find a place for the ark.

So, now the people of Beth-Shemesh from verse 20 of 1 Samuel of Chapter 6 said this, **“Then the men of Beth-Shemesh said, “Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall he go away from us?”**

The men of Kiriath-jearim took up this offer. They brought the ark to the house of Abinidab, which was upon a hill, and the ark was to be placed there and taken care of. Look at this picture again:



You see the location of Kiriath-jearim from Jerusalem. This is where the ark stayed until David felt it was time to bring the ark to Jerusalem.

Now, David has been anointed King of Israel. Saul is dead and it is time for God's promise to be fulfilled and David was to take the throne and lead Israel. What have we learned about David over these past few months? Exactly how he is described in Scripture. Though imperfect he was a man after God's own heart. His desire to worship God and to see the people of Israel worship God was strong.

As I mentioned at the beginning, it is believed that Psalm 24 was written as David brought the ark to Jerusalem. It was his desire to see God glorified and worship in the right way that was the driving force behind the majority of David's Psalms. Listen to David's words from Psalm 95, of course inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 95:6-7

⁶ Oh Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Well, how is that for an introduction! Let's read Psalm 24 beginning with verses 1 and 2.

Psalm 24:1-2

¹ The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

The first step of true worship is the realization that God has all power and has authority over all things in this world. David is putting forth for all people to recognize this authority and remember from Psalm 29 these words:

Psalm 29:2

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

How many military people do we have in here? Quite a few! When a higher-ranking officer walked in the room, what was usually said? Attention! And you snapped to attention and in most cases saluted also. Let me bring you to attention. In the first verse of the Bible, it reads what? Most of you can quote it right now! ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!***

The emphasis in verse 1 again is the earth. The earth was created unique. As much as some people wish there was extraterrestrial life out there on other planets, there is not. They continue to prove it themselves as each planet is researched, that those planets cannot sustain life and have not sustained life.

Once again in those first two verses we see what is referred to as the divine name of God. Lord, but in Hebrew, Jehovah! Meaning existing one! The one who has existed for all eternity has created time as we know it and created the earth and us, the people who inhabit this earth. Let's look outside the earth for a moment to look at the glory and graces of God.

The sun shines and the moon reflects the brightness of the sun because of the graces of the Lord! The stars twinkle, the earth orbits the sun, the moon orbits the earth upon the power and graces of the Lord! We, right now, as we are taking our next breath are here upon God's graces.

When Matthew taught from Psalm 19, we learned this from verse 1. All that we see in creation does this.

Psalm 19:1

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Matthew said this in his sermon:

Sometimes the sky, a sunrise or sunset, is so beautiful that it doesn't quite seem real, but I believe such otherworldly scenes are about as close as we can come to catching a glimpse of the glory of God this side of forever. When we're blessed to witness such breath-taking vistas, we must remind ourselves that the glory of a blazing sky is FAR SURPASSED by the glory of the One who spoke it into existence.

All the beauty we see upon this earth is the Lord's and he has allowed us to be a part of it and enjoy it. Just to remind us of something, may I read from Psalm 139: ***For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well.*** In that fact we are accountable to the Lord!

God created a perfect paradise for mankind! As we think of all of God's characteristics what drives all those other attributes is God's Holiness! What happened in the paradise of the Garden of Eden? Adam and Eve chose not to worship God for who he is. We all know the history! God gave Adam and Eve everything in this beautiful earth he created. God gave one command! Not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil! What did God just do? He defined sin. Disobedience to God's commands and his word is sin!

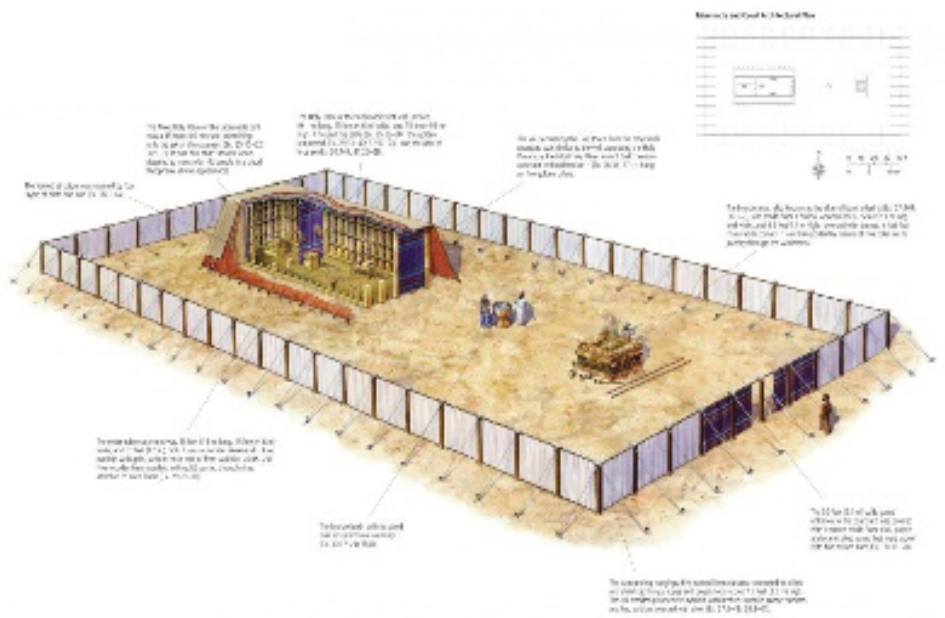
The sin that Adam and Eve committed caused a break in that relationship, a separation that needs to be restored. Sin came into the world and because of that one sin, sin into mankind, and through that sin death to us all. Therefore, we are all separated from God in our sin!

So, with God being Holy, us being sinful, how can we his creation even come into his presence? I am so glad you asked! David explains this to us. Look at verses 3 to 6 of Psalm 24.

Psalm 24:3-6

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. ⁵ He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

As we look at verse 3, we can see several visual descriptions here. David is not merely talking about walking up a hill but coming into the presence of God. We talked about the ark earlier. Where did the ark reside within the tabernacle? The Holy of Holies! Look at this picture.



You see the tent towards the back, which is the Holy of Holies. Who could go back there? The High Priest and only once a year at the day of atonement? The ark represented the presence of the Lord. How then could the High Priest come into God's presence? The High Priest's clothes would have to be washed, he had to wash himself also, to give that expression of and I would say a desire to being clean.

Exodus 30:17-21

17 The Lord said to Moses, 18 "You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, 19 with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet. 20 When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to the Lord, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. 21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

Then the High Priest would bring in the blood of the bull to sprinkle upon the mercy seat to have his sins covered and the blood of the goat for the sins of the people of the nation of Israel.

David brings the ark back from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem, also known as Mount Zion. Even coming into Jerusalem there would be an ascension for as we have learned, Jerusalem is approximately 3800 feet above sea level. At the time of the Temple there would be an ascension of 1000's of people coming to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, to commemorate the sacrifice that was offered to save them from the death as it kept the destroyer from entering their homes.

Ultimately though, where does God reside? God is in heaven! As I mentioned before what is being described here is more than just a physical ascension. It is a spiritual ascension. David has explained that all the earth is God's and everything in and on the earth is his. God created a perfect world until sin came into the world. Breaking that wonderful relationship between God and mankind because of sin.

How do we now enter in the presence of God? How is that relationship restored? We must have clean hands and a pure heart! The ceremonial washings of the nation of Israel were all a symbol of consecration, being set apart. Each washing was a symbol of purification.

Once again, those washings were a mirror, a shadow of what the Lord Jesus was accomplishing on the cross. The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat, all the animals sacrificed for sin. A shadow, a mirror of what Jesus would accomplish on the cross.

The analogy of clean hands and a pure heart come in tandem. We can clean up ourselves on the outside. We can portray a good game. We can come in here time after time and give the look of that we are followers of Jesus Christ, but our heart has not been changed, it has not been regenerated.

That is what we saw on Sunday, a couple of weeks ago, with the Pharisees. Pastor Kevin showed us this when Jesus told the Pharisees they did not have the love of God in them. This is what Pastor Kevin said:

“You do not have the love of God within you.” *Could Jesus be any more brutal to these guys? You don’t love God...but they thought they did! They really thought they were “too cool for school.” They kept the Law to a “T” and what they found troublesome in the keeping the Law, they made new laws so as to give themselves a pass. Do you understand what Jesus was saying? He was saying, “You can’t believe in me and my words, because you’re too busy seeking your own glory...you’re totally wrapped up in your own self-exaltation, self-promotion, and self-glory. You’re running your own ‘mutual admiration society.’”*

These clean hands and pure heart are none of our own doing. All those washings, all those sacrifices had to come with a heart that was pure, a heart of repentance, a heart of faith, a heart of obedience to God’s commands.

Those washings and sacrifices are no more needed. Why? Because the ultimate sacrifice came. Jesus Christ, the King of Glory. The one who became the propitiation for our sin, the sacrifice, the payment for our sins. Ephesians 1 verse 7 tells us, ***“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”***

It comes through repentance, confession of our sins, with a pure heart that brings us back into the relationship with God that is severed because of sin. 1 John 1:9, ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** Do you want to be saved from your sins? Do you want a truly pure heart?

When Tim taught on Psalm 51 a few weeks back he said these words: ***If you want to be healed, this is the doorway. The only thing that stands between you and the change God wants for your life is your pride. You are the man. You are the woman. Don’t let your pride keep you from confession.*** David said these words in Psalm 51: ***Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!***

The clean hands and the pure heart are tethered together to create a lifestyle of true worship and obedience to the Lord. Clean hands is a description of right actions, and a pure heart is right motives in all we do. It is all to glorify the Lord and to give honor to Jesus. Jesus said, for us to be his disciples we are to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow him! It is also through denying ourselves and following Jesus that we are saved. Let’s look how that plays out in verses 4 to 6 again.

Psalm 24:4-6

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. ⁵ He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

One that truly has a pure heart will not accept the lies from Satan or this world. God has defined what truth is, and in that, what sin is. God has given us truth through his word, and it is our authority, and we will have a true desire to obey his word. Our salvation is not based off our good works. We have no righteousness of our own. We don't even have knowledge of seeking to do good without God.

In salvation the righteousness that we receive is not our own, but it is Jesus' righteousness that is imputed to us. This does not mean we are perfect or will never sin, but we are positionally seen as righteous through Jesus Christ's sacrifice and payment for our sins on the cross, his death, and his resurrection.

This is why Jesus is, The King of Glory! Jesus' position as King of Glory has been established for of all eternity for all of mankind. What we must look at also is the context of David's Psalm. As I mentioned at the beginning, Psalm 24 is considered to have been written at the time that David was bringing the ark to Jerusalem. Psalm 24 is a song that asks a question and calls for a response. Look at verse 7 to 10.

Psalm 24:7-10

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 this 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!

At the beginning of this Psalm, we see the God who reigns over all the earth. The power, majesty, and glory of the Lord in creation. How do we even come into the presence of the Lord? Repentance, confession of sin, and living in obedience to the truth of God's Word.

David is bringing the ark into Jerusalem! The ark representing the presence of God and that God resided between the cherubim of the ark on the mercy seat. The invitation is given! As the ark comes into Jerusalem, open the gates, let them open wide to let this King of Glory in! 1 Chronicles 15 shows the worshiping and the celebrating that was going on. ***1 Chronicles 15:28 ²⁸ So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals and made loud music on harps and lyres.***

The remembering of that the Lord is strong and mighty, mighty in battle as the Lord had protected Israel time after time. But, more importantly he is their Lord of salvation! In essence they were welcoming God through the gates of the city.

How about the gates or doors of our hearts? Ultimately where does God want to reside? In our hearts! Jesus is the King of Glory! Remember the Old Testament is a shadow of the coming King! Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and one day all will confess those very words! Please do it now if you have not!

There is a consummation to all of this! Remember, Remember, that after Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose again, the King of Glory ascended to heaven! Jesus presented himself to God the Father, completed! Our High Priest, Our Mercy Seat, Our way of salvation! Jesus is coming back to take us with him to the New Jerusalem, and the gates of that city will open, will lift up, to the let the King of Glory come in!

I want to end tonight focusing on the fact that Jesus is the King of Glory! Everything of the Old Testament was a shadow of Jesus' glory. Jesus is King, is he King of your heart! We are going to watch a short video and then as Psalm 24 was a song that asked questions and then called for a response. We are going to sing a song as we close that asks questions and calls for a response from each of us.