

Sunday 03 May 2020-Psalm 24- I am still the Lord's

This is a psalm of David

The earth belongs to the LORD. Everything in it is his own. The world belongs to the LORD.

Everybody in it is his own. The LORD built it on the seas.

He founded it on the waters. Who can go up the hill of the LORD? Who can stand in his holy place? The person that has clean hands and a pure heart. The person that does not worship idols. The person that does not believe in lies. The LORD will do good things to those people.

God will save them. He will say that they are right. They are the people that are looking for God. They want to see the face of (the God) of Jacob. **SELAH**

Introduction:

The Jews had a box that they called the ark. This was not the ark that Noah made. Noah's ark was a ship. The Jews took their ark with them everywhere. In it were things that gave them help.

David was king of the Jews. His capital city was Jerusalem. It was a very old city. Everything in it was very old. David brought the ark into Jerusalem. He wrote a special psalm. The Jews sang it as the ark came into Jerusalem. It was Psalm 24. The story is in a part of the Bible called Samuel. Here is **2 Samuel 6:12-15,17**.

v12 David brought the ark of God to Jerusalem. There was a lot of happy noise.

v13 When they had carried the ark a few metres, David made a sacrifice. He sacrificed a bull and a calf. **v14** David danced before the LORD with all his power. He wore a linen shirt.

v15 David and all the Jews brought the ark of the LORD into Jerusalem. They shouted a lot, and some people made music on trumpets. **v17** David had made a tent for the ark. They put the ark of the LORD into the tent. Then David made more sacrifices to the LORD.

As we find ourselves in Stage 4 of lockdown, closure of some shops, interim plan for schools, cancellations of sporting events, No celebrations of Freedom day and workers day, church anniversaries, birthdays , anniversaries, holidays being cancelled or being rescheduled and even churches closing, we have been forced to go back to the basics on social and spiritual life. The uncertainty of so many things going forward, I believe that during this time we also questioned the Sovereignty of God of the Universe.

What is it that we are afraid might happen? What is it that has so many people worrying? Is there really an unseen enemy out there that we can't control, that is out to get us? Have we come to a point of doubting the Lord of the Universe, even thinking that God has lost control of his property. So the answer to the question, **“To whom does the earth belong?” think for a moment....** is not **“the kings”**, nor **“the people”**, nor the **“priests”**, nor the **farmers**, nor **the rich or the famous**, but the **“Lord”**.

That is a basic belief from which flow many consequences. The farmers of land owe their livelihood to the creator. The owners are not the priests but the God of whom the priests teach,. The kings is not the owners, nor the people who build houses on it, we are all tenants or sojourners. Neither are the gods of the nations its owners. There is nothing we claim to be ours. We have seen how easily our lives can be brought to a halt. We have seen it through Covid 19. In America more than 40000 people lost their lives due to the corona virus, in our country our affection rate is over 5000 with more than 90 deaths, eish our financial budgets and resources has crashed. Nothing I have, I can lay claim on, because I am what I am through the grace of God. We are mere stewards of the gifts from God. Braeking News: **.(Psalm 24:1) The earth belongs to the LORD. Everything in it is his own. The world belongs to the LORD. Everybody in it is his own.**This belief has implications for us today- The earth is not owned by the political powers, nor the United Nations, nor any Virus or Pandemic. It does not belongs to the scientist who may analyse and codify its processes and describe how it all works. Neither is it the possession of big business corporations that mine its resources or adapt its features with engineering feats that make it more amendable to human usage. Neither is the earth the preserve of the conservationists or environmentalists. In the beginning and the end, it is God's, created by Him for His glory and designed for the benefit of all his creatures with mankind God's appointed steward or manager. This psalm reminds and teach me, God is able to bring order out of Chaos.

Have you ever find yourself in a situation where you search for a letter or an account and you are unsuccessful. After scouring every possible place, you finish up having to clean up a whole cupboard, workshop or desk. In the process you discard or get rid off useless items until the place is neat and tidy. You have brought order in a place of chaos. The biblical writers believed that God subdued the forces of disorder and imposed his order on the primeval chaos. Psalm 24 may have been a song used in the annual festival celebrating the ark being taken into the temple.

When God created the world He did not leave it; He lives in the midst of the splendour He first created. He is evermore active in all the things of nature and of history. Now, the Psalmist here tells how God seeks to accomplish His great purpose in the world that He created, the world that He maintains, the world that He redeemed. He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. What is that? That God, who is the Sovereign of this world, has a great purpose in its government, and He seeks to accomplish that purpose through endless mutability and conflict.

There ought to be no change in your life which does not leave you stronger and purer. So look up, the world is not purposeless: no man's life is a chaos. With endless variation, contrast, conflict, and catastrophe God is with us, and He will bring it out well at last, because when I get to the last page of the Book I read, "And there shall be no more sea."

Conclusion:

If you still wonder who is in control of this earth and South Africa, think again. v1 “ **The earth belongs to the LORD. Everything in it is his own. The world belongs to the LORD and Everybody in it is his own.**” v1 This is what I want you to do:

1. **Name your fear.** You already know what it is.
2. **Make a decision this week to confront it and not run away from it.**

What would your life be like if that fear didn't exist? It is possible. There is an old Italian proverb that goes this way: **Better to spend one day as a lion than one hundred years as a sheep. Better to spend one day with courageous faith in God than a whole lifetime cowering in fear.**

3. **Go out and the Lord will be with you.** Lift up your head with hope and confidence in Almighty God, that whatever he throws your way, you can face. Take courage, be strong and courageous, for the Lord our God is with you. Fear not, children of God.

4. ²⁴ “The LORD bless you
and keep you;
²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

