

‘Christ as Creator, Saviour and King’

Psalm 24:1-10

Introduction

I’ve called this series: *‘Making Sense of the Psalms.’* We have looked at Psalms 1, 2, 8 and 19 as introductory Psalms. Psalm 1 was all about ‘Two ways to live – godly or ungodly. Psalm 2 was about ‘The Son of God’. Psalm 8 was about ‘The Son of Man’. Psalm 19 was about the fact that ‘God has spoken – through Creation and through his Word.’ Then we came to Three Psalms all about Christ: Psalm 22 ‘Christ on the Cross’, Psalm 23 ‘Christ as the Shepherd’ and now Psalm 24. What’s it all about? Well I believe we have three pictures of Christ in this one Psalm: Christ as Creator, Christ as Saviour and Christ as King. These are all themes we have come across before in other Psalms. So let’s take a look at this Psalm together this evening:

1. Christ as Creator (vs.1-2)

It seems very strange to us that people want to believe that all that we see around us came from a big bang billions of years ago when one particle somehow before there was space or time decided to explode and keep on expanding until all that we see around us just happened to come into being by random chance. What a ludicrous idea! The chances of even a simple chain of amino acids stringing themselves together in the right order to make a protein (the basic building blocks of all living matter) is something like 1 in 10 to the power of 130. In other words it’s just impossible! The ‘theory of evolution’ and the ‘big bang theory’ are the biggest cons and waste of scientific time this world has ever seen. And in this year – the 150th Anniversary of Darwinism - it is practically collapsing on top of itself!

3000 Years ago David simply took his pen and wrote down these very simple words:

*‘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.’*

That’s what David believed 3000 years ago, 1000 years before Christ walked this planet, and that’s what we still believe today. So-called scientists have come and gone, but God’s Word still stands forever. This has never been proven otherwise and it will never be. Did you know that an American scientist called Dr Kent Hovind has offered \$250,000 to anyone who can prove that evolution is true? So far no-one has claimed the prize money. It just can’t be done – his money is safe!

But why do I call this point of my sermon – ‘Christ as Creator’? Surely I should say God is the Creator, meaning God the Father. Well in Genesis 1:2 we read that *the Spirit of God* was hovering over the waters of the earth in all its unformed state. Here in Psalm 24 we are told the earth is *the LORD’s* – notice the four capital letters once again – meaning the God of the Old Testament – The Creator God – Yahweh or Jehovah. But when we come into the New Testament, as we have done so many times as we’ve studied these Psalms, we find that they are all pointing forward to Christ.

In John's Gospel ch.1:1-3 what do we read?

*'In the beginning (the same words that open Gen 1:1) was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.'*

Who was this Word that John is talking about here? Well look down to v.14:

*'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, (or the Only begotten Son)
Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'*

That's who John was referring to when he talked about the Word – **the Son of God!**

And what did he say about this person of the godhead (v.3 and v.10)

*'Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.'
He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognise him.'*

So the Apostle John is telling us that this world was made by Christ. Nothing was made without his power or say so. The world was made through Christ.

And it wasn't just John who believed this – turn over to one of Paul's letters – Colossians 1:15-17. Speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ this is what Paul says:

*'He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.
For by him all things were created:
Things in heaven and on earth,
Visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;
All things were created by him and for him.
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'*

So that's why I say, on the basis of what the Holy Spirit inspired David, John and Paul to write down as God's Word - **Christ** is the Creator of the earth and everything in it. Christ made this world and every one of the people in it. That's why everything belongs to Him, because he made it all. He made you and me. That's why we are all accountable to Him, because he made us each one.

And that's why the evolutionists don't want to believe in a Creator God, because they know that the moment they do they will have to submit to his authority on their lives, because they too one day will be held accountable to their Great Creator God!

That's why the devil wants us to believe the lie of evolution instead, because then he thinks he can get us to live without any thought of God whatsoever and he has us in his grasp instead! But: *'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.'*

So here's the bottom-line: Christ is the Creator!

2. Christ as Saviour (vs.3-6)

Having established that Christ is our Creator, the One to whom all of us must give an account one day, the Psalmist David then goes on to ask a question:

'Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?'

In other words how do you get right with this God? How do you come into his presence? Who of us has the right to stand in his holy presence? How do we do it? Well David goes on to suggest to us an answer, or to tell us what the answer is:

'He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who does not lift up his soul to an idol

Or swear by what is false.'

Those are the only people who can come into the holy presence of God.

These are the only people who can ascend his holy hill and stand in his holy place.

Those who have clean hands and a pure heart.

So what does that mean? We just have to wash our hands and look our best before we come to church? Not at all! Hands and heart speak of our actions and our motives. Actions are things you do with your hands. Motives come from our hearts. So can you say that you have clean hands, in the sense that you have never done anything wrong?

Can you say you have a pure heart, in the sense that your motives behind your actions are always honourable, never mixed, never tainted by selfishness, or greed or your own glorification?

Let me tell you there is not one of us that can meet this description, or measure up to this standard. Just turn over to Romans 3 for a minute and let's read vs.9-20:

'What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

There is no one who understands,

No one who seeks God.

All have turned away,

They have together become worthless;

There is no one who does good, not even one."

(Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20)

"Their throats are open graves;

Their tongues practice deceit." (Psalm 5:9)

"The poison of vipers is on their lips." (Psalm 140:3)

"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." (Psalm 10:7)

"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

*ruin and misery mark their ways,
and the way of peace they do not know.” (Isaiah 59:7-8)
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Psalm 36:1)*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law;
Rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.’*

We didn’t even have to go to the New Testament to hear that, David knew all that too, because most of that is made up of references from the Psalms (14,53,5,140,10 & 36)! David knew, just as we know in our hearts today, that none of us really have clean hands or pure hearts. There is none of us perfect. All of us are sinners. That’s why we need a Saviour, if we are ever to get right with our Great Creator God.

And that’s why David goes on to say this in Psalm 24:

*‘He will **receive** blessing from the LORD
And vindication from God his **Saviour**.
Such is the generation of **those who seek him**,
Who seek your face, O God of Jacob.’*

We need to **receive** a blessing from the Lord if we are to stand in his presence. We need to receive vindication from God as our **SAVIOUR**. There it is – we need a Saviour. How do we find this Saviour? It is by **seeking** the Lord while he may be found and calling upon him while he is near. Only a sinner needs a Saviour. So if you realise you’re a sinner, that you don’t have clean hands and a pure heart, then it’s time to seek the Lord and ask him to take away our sin and come into our life and to be our Saviour. If we seek him we will find him, because 2000 years ago he did everything that was necessary to purchase our salvation, when he died on the cross at Calvary for your sins and mine. God himself has provided a Saviour – His Son – The Lord Jesus Christ. So we trust Him and know his salvation.

Christ as Creator, Christ as Saviour and thirdly and finally this Psalm also presents:

3. Christ as King (vs.7-10)

Five times in this last section Christ is referred to as **“The King of Glory!”** (v.7ff).

*‘Lift up your heads, O 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.
Lift up your heads, O 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.***

What is all this referring to? Well it might have originally referred to King David coming back victorious from some battle. Some people actually place it in 2 Samuel ch.6 when David brought back the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem for the very first time. As he was approaching the gates of his city Jerusalem, his servants beside him are depicted as calling out '*Lift up your heads, O you gates, be lifted up you ancient doors, that the king of glory may come in.*' But the next question '*Who is this King of glory?*' means that from this particular event of David's day we are being pointed forward to something much more significant.

'Who is this King of glory?' the answer comes back in the next line that he is:
'The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.'

So when was our Lord strong and mighty – mighty in battle for us? – It was of course at the cross. There he fought the devil, his ancient enemy, head on, once and for all. There, not only by virtue of his death when he cried out, '*It is finished!*' was the devil defeated, because Christ's precious blood had been shed for our sins, but because of his resurrection from the dead on the third day he had not only defeated sin, but the devil and indeed death itself – all our ancient enemies lie dead beneath his feet! And so it's not just at the crucifixion and at the resurrection, but it's at the Ascension of our Risen Lord back into heaven, that this picture is really fulfilled.

Because after 40 days Jesus left his disciples and was caught up into heaven, and there the gates of the New Jerusalem opened for Him to welcome him back from his battle with the ancient serpent the devil, and so you can hear these words ringing out around heaven as he returned home:

*'Lift up your heads, O 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.
Lift up your heads, O 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 Lord Almighty is the Lord Jesus Christ returning from victory to God's right hand in heaven and there he has sat down until all his foes are finally put under his feet.

He has won the victory – the outcome is secure, and one day when God calls 'Time' Jesus will return and will be seen to be victorious and then every knee will bow before him and every tongue will confess that '*Jesus Christ is Lord*' to the glory of God the Father! (Philippians 2:10-11).

Conclusion

So this evening we have seen Christ portrayed in this Psalm as our Creator.

We have also seen Him offered to us as our Saviour.

Finally we have seen him glorified as our King.

Whether people want to accept it or not, He is their Creator.

The question is whether or not He is also their Saviour and King?

We need to pray that the people we know, and the people we have met during recent outreach, will accept that Jesus is their Creator, and then move on to accept him as their Saviour and as King of their lives. Amen.