

## “A RECALIBRATING OF LIFE”

**INTRODUCTION:** The Psalter has shaped the lives of Christians more than any other book in the Bible...

1. **William L. Holladay:** *The Psalms through Three Thousand Years: Prayerbook of a Great Cloud of Witnesses* (p. 1).

*For two millennia this collection of 150 individual psalms has helped to shape the public and private worship of Jews and Christians; I am not aware of any other body of religious poetry that has been so influential for so long a period of time, and for such a variety of religious communities.*

2. The Psalter was *arranged* by Levites, perhaps the “Sons of Korah,” during the Second Temple timeframe of Israel’s history.

- a. i.e., after returning from the 70 years of Babylonian captivity
- b. Circa 300-400 BC
- c. Placement of 150 Psalms into five books

3. The five books of the Psalter are these:

- a. Book One: *The Prayers of David* (Psalms 1-41; personal)
- b. Book Two: *The Psalms of Elohim* (Psalms 42-72; national)
- c. Book Three: *The Hymns of Hope* (Psalms 73-89; national)
- d. Book Four: *The Songs of the King* (Psalms 90-105; liturgical)
- e. Book Five: *The Book of Praise* (Psalms 106-150; liturgical)

4. Within these five books are found *collections* of Psalms

- a. Songs of Zion, Penitential Psalms (themes)
- b. The Great Hallel: Passover (Psalms 113-118)
- c. Pilgrim Psalms: *Songs of Ascents* (Psalms 120-134)
- d. Enthronement Psalms, etc.
- e. **And:** *The Daily Psalms*
- f. *Septuagint:* A Psalm for the first day of the week, etc...

5. **William Holladay:** *The Psalms through Three Thousand Years; p. 139.*

*Worship in the Jerusalem Temple centered on animal sacrifice, provision for which is given in the Pentateuch: morning sacrifice and evening sacrifice, with additions for the Sabbath, the New Moon, and the great annual feasts. The Mishnah recalls that Levites recited Psalm 24 on Sunday, Psalm 48 on Monday, Psalm 82 on Tuesday, Psalm 94 on Wednesday, Psalm 81 on Thursday, Psalm 93 on Friday, and Psalm 92 on Saturday, and these traditions are likely to be correct . . .*

6. The *Mishnah* is a large tome of writings by Rabbis, gathered over centuries, commenting on Jewish Traditions, Law and Worship...
  - a. Six sections
  - b. *Tractates*: divisions within each section
  - c. 5<sup>th</sup> section: *Kodashim* (“holy things”)
  - d. 9<sup>th</sup> Tractate: *Tamid* (“daily offerings”)
  - e. *Mishnah: Tamid; 7:4; Herbert Danby Version...*

*This was the singing which the Levites used to sing in the Temple. On the first day they sang The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is, the round world and they that dwell therein; on the second day they sang Great is the Lord and highly to be praised in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill; on the third day they sang God standeth in the congregation of God, He is a judge among the gods; on the fourth day they sang O Lord God to whom vengeance belongeth, thou God to whom vengeance belongeth show Thyself; on the fifth day they sang Sing we merrily unto God our strength, make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob; on the sixth day they sang The Lord is king, and hath put on glorious apparel. On the Sabbath they sang A Psalm: a Song for the Sabbath Day; a Psalm, a song for the time that is to come, for the day that shall be all Sabbath and rest in the life everlasting.*

7. The “songs of the day” or *Daily Psalms* were soon incorporated into the daily routine of Hebrew home life.
8. **Alfred Edersheim**: *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah; Book 1; p. 107...*

*“Directly the child learned to speak, his religious instruction was to begin – no doubt, with such verses of Holy Scripture as composed that part of the Jewish liturgy, which answers to our Creed. Then would follow other passages from the Bible, short prayers, and select sayings of the sages. Special attention was given to the culture of the memory, since forgetfulness might prove as fatal in its consequences as ignorance or neglect of the Law. Very early the child must have been taught that which might be called his birthday-text – some verse of Scripture beginning, or ending with, or at least containing, the same letters as his Hebrew name. This guardian-promise the child would insert in its daily prayers. The earliest hymns taught would be the Psalms for the days of the week, or festive Psalms, such as the Hallel, (Ps. 113-118) or those connected with the festive pilgrimages to Zion.”*

9. Seven Psalms burned into the memory of every Hebrew man, woman and child:
  - a. Memorized, recited daily, sung in Synagogue and Temple
  - b. Seven Psalms recited, one per day, at both the morning and the evening sacrifices
  - c. The Jewish *Talmud* tells us why these 7 were chosen
  - d. Another multi-volume collection of Rabbinical writings
    - i. *Babylonian Talmud* is the most famous
    - ii. Includes four volumes entitled *Seder Mo'ed* (“about holy days”)
    - iii. Fourth volume is about *Rosh Hashanah* (the Feast of Trumpets or Jewish New Year)
  - e. Seven days of creation and these seven Psalms...

- f. *Talmud: Mo'ed: Rosh Hashanah; 31a; pp. 145-156, Epstein Edition.*

*It has been taught: 'R. Judah said in the name R. Akiba: On the first day [of the week] what [psalm] did they [the Levites] say? [The one commencing] The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, because He took possession and gave possession and was [sole] ruler in His universe. On the second day what did they say? [The one commencing], Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, because he divided His works and reigned over them like a king. On the third day they said, God standeth in the congregation of God, because He revealed the earth in His wisdom and established the world for His community. On the fourth day they said, O Lord, Thou God, to whom vengeance belongeth, because He created the sun and the moon and will one day punish those who serve them. On the fifth day they said, Sing aloud to the God of our strength, because He created fishes and birds to praise His name. On the sixth day they said, The Lord reigneth, He is clothed in majesty, because He completed His work and reigned over His creatures. On the seventh day they said, A psalm, a song for the Sabbath day, to wit, for the day which will be all Sabbath.*

10. Why did the Levites choose these 7 Psalms for us to sing, one per day of each day of the week?
- Note: each of these 7 Psalms are purely about God
  - Seven things we tend to forget about God**
  - Seven things about which we need a **weekly reminder**
11. Here are these seven daily Psalms, in order, by theme:
- Sunday: **Psalm 24**...*God the Creator*
  - Monday: **Psalm 48**...*God in His City*
  - Tuesday: **Psalm 82**...*God the Just Judge*
  - Wednesday: **Psalm 94**...*God the Avenger*
  - Thursday: **Psalm 81**...*God the Forgiving One*
  - Friday: **Psalm 93**...*God the Holy King*
  - Saturday: **Psalm 92**...*The God of the Covenant*
12. These seven Psalms for the week call us to a spiritual **reorientation**, day by day, week by week, all life long...
- Seven daily corrections we all must make because *the world* tends to rub off the sense of the Divine that our lives need.
  - Psalm 24*...*Recalibrating Your Life*
  - Psalm 48*...*Rediscovering the Church*
  - Psalm 82*...*Reengaging in Justice*
  - Psalm 94*...*Remembering the God of the Covenant*
  - Psalm 81*...*Returning to the God of Grace*
  - Psalm 93*...*Recognizing the Divine Majesty*

h. *Psalm 92...Retelling the Great Story*

13. So...let's begin our study of these *Daily Psalms*...

a. Sermon Series I've titled: "*Our Daily Bread*"

- i. *The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)*
- ii. *But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)*
- iii. *Give us this day our daily bread. (Mt. 6:11)*

b. In the Church of England: *Book of Common Prayer*; the first Morning Psalm on day 5 of the month is Psalm 24.

c. Jewish Title: "*The Earth is the Lord's*" (1<sup>st</sup> line)

d. A Psalm of David

e. **Derek Kidner:** *Psalms: 1-72; TOTC; vol. 1; p. 113.*

*Traditionally this is sung on Ascension Day, and has inspired some of the great hymns for that occasion. . . . the theme is better seen as that of Advent, the Victor's arrival to possess the citadel He has conquered, just as David and the ark transformed the Jebusite stronghold into the hill and city of the Lord.*

f. A psalm with a rich history in the Old Testament and the New Testament church

g. **John P. Peters:** *The Psalms in Liturgies; p. 156.*

*In the latter days of the second Temple, as we learn from the heading, in the Greek translation, and in the Herodian Temple, as we learn from the Talmud, this was the special Psalm for the first day, at morning sacrifice in the Temple, and in the Synagogue, presumably because of the first verse in its relation to creation. In the Christian Church for obvious reasons it became the Psalm for Ascension.*

h. "First Day of the Week" = *our Sunday*

14. **Its Purpose:** *The Recalibrating of Our Lives (Psalm 24)*

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

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?*

*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.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah*

*Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O 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 gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! Selah (Psalm 24)*

#### I. A REMINDER ABOUT CREATION (Psalm 24:1, 2)

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers. (Psalm 24:1-2)*

##### 1. The occasion of this Psalm: We are not certain...

- a. But, it probably was when David brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem
- b. **James Montgomery Boice:** *Psalms; vol. 1; p. 214.*

*I do not know if Psalm 24 has a setting in any event we know of from the Old Testament. But if there is a historical setting, I suppose it is the occasion on which David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem from its temporary resting place in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite (2 Sam. 6). Symbolically, the God of Israel was understood to dwell between the outstretched wings of the two cherubim mounted on the lid of the ark. So when the ark was taken to Jerusalem, it would have been appropriate to have composed a hymn like Psalm 24 for the occasion. Twice over it intones, *Life up your heads, O you gates...that the King of glory may come in* (vv. 7, 9). The title of Psalm 24 identifies it as a Psalm "Of David," which also means that David may himself have composed it for the ceremony.*

- c. *Psalm 24:* To prepare the City of Jerusalem to receive the Presence of God (Shekinah Glory)
- d. *Psalm 15:* To prepare the Tabernacle (tent of meeting) for the Presence of God

2. Why? *Because there is a tendency in people to think that once God comes to “their church building”, they own and control God. God in an ark. God in a building. God in a box!*
3. So David reminds us: “Oh, No! We do not own God; God owns everything!”

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers. (Ps. 24:1-2)*

- a. *The earth*: the physical creation and all the creatures that dwell on the earth: flora and fauna
  - b. *The world*: the realm of mankind and every being who dwells therein: human beings (and angels)
  - c. **They all belong to God...everything... everyone!**
4. God “*founded it upon the seas*”: the earth and its creatures...
    - a. Earth, sky, seas, “living things”

*And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

*And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

*And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.*

*And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:9-13; 20-25)*

5. God “*established it upon the rivers*”: the garden for mankind
  - a. The “place” of humanity; our earthly home
 

*...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*  
(Genesis 2:7-15)

6. Creation and culture...God made them both, and therefore, He owns them both.

7. **Sunday, the “first day of the week,” is created by God to remember these things:**

- a. *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.* (Genesis 2:1-3)
- b. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.* (Exo. 20:8-11)
- c. Saturday? Sunday? We don't know, because we don't know which day of the week God began His creation work in Genesis 1:1...
- d. But we **do** know that God appointed a day in the week to be *reminded* that...
  - i. The earth and environment are God's, not ours. We are tenants here; not owners.
  - ii. Mankind is God's, not ours. We do not even own ourselves – soul and body belong to God.
  - iii. *...and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.* (Ecc. 12:7)
  - iv. *...you are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- e. **Issac Watts: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

*I sing the mighty pow'r of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; The moon shines full at His command, And all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food; He formed the creatures with His word, And then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, Where'er I turn my eye: If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flow'r below, But makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise, and tempests blow, By order from Thy throne; While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, And ev'rywhere that man can be, Thou, God, art present there.*

- f. **Key words:** “...while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care...”
8. Life is measured in units of **Time**; and Psalm 24 reminds us that time belongs to God...
- Time was the first thing created by God  
*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.  
And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.  
(Genesis 1:1-5)*
  - Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
*in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:1-2, 12)*
  - But I trust in you, O LORD;  
*I say, “You are my God.”  
My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! (Psalm 31:14-15)*
  - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”  
(James 4:13-15)
9. **Nothing** you possess is really yours. Your soul is God’s, your body is God’s, your world and this earth are God’s; even the days of your life belong to God. Nothing is truly yours...
- The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,  
(Psalm 24:1)*
  - Not your job, not your home, not your children, not your possessions
  - All belongs to God and to His Son because it was all *created for Christ*, not for you!
  - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.(Col. 1:15-16)*
10. **This is why Sunday (the Lord’s Day) is so very, very important for you and me:** *It recalibrates our lives around God’s ownership of us and not our ownership of God or anything else.*
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made*

heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exo. 20:8-11)

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

- b. Created...redeemed...worship God!
- c. The Sabbath is the **crowning jewel** of creation
  - i. *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen. 1:31-2:3)*
  - ii. Not man but the Sabbath completes the creation.
  - iii. A day to worship God who made all things

11. This truth is **always** the first truth children learn about God – God made you because He loves you, and you ought to love Him for doing so!

- a. *Catechism for young children (Presby.)*

*Q. Who made you?*

*A. God*

*Q. What else did God make?*

*A. All things*

*Q. Why did God make you and all things?*

*A. For His own glory*

*Q. How can you glorify God*

*A. By loving Him and doing what He commands*

- b. *Baltimore Catechism (RC)*

*Q. Who made the world?*

*A. God made the world.*

*Q. Who is God?*

*A. God is the Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things.*

*Q. Why did God make you?*

*A. God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next. (Balt. Cat.)*

- c. *An Outline of the Faith (Episcopal)*

*Q. What are we by nature?*

*A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God. (Epis. Outline)*

d. *Luther's Small Catechism*

*"I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth."*

*What does this mean?*

*Answer: I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given me and still sustains my body and soul, all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with food and clothing, house and home, family and property; that he provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me from evil. All this he does out of his pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit of worthiness on my part. For all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true. (Luth. Cat.)*

12. This is why it is so important to **use Sunday the way God intended** – rest, worship, church...

- a. Because the more we shop, engage in sports, catch up on work, do lawn work or laundry, the more we reinforce the great lie...
- b. i.e., that my body, my life and my time are mine!
- c. *Sabbath is as essential to our nature as gender, work, marriage, family, sex, food, community, friends and the other parameters of creation.*
- d. Birds fly, fish swim, animals graze, but only men and angels work, rest and *worship*.
- e. To ignore or abuse the Sabbath Day is to do violence to ourselves, the creation and God.
- f. **Soon we become our own gods who believe that we own ourselves. Then all is lost!**

13. Sunday reminds us to recalibrate our lives around the #1 truth of life:

- a. *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. (Ps. 24:1-2)*
- b. Our faith does **not** begin with John 3:16
- c. Our faith begins with Genesis 1:1  
*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)*
- d. And *Sunday* reinforces the "genesis" of our faith.

II. A REORGANIZATION AROUND THE CHURCH (Psalm 24:3-6)

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?*

*And who shall stand in his holy place?*

*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.*

*He will receive blessing from the LORD*

*and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.  
Selah (Psalm 24:3-6)*

1. Not everyone is welcomed into the presence of God. Only the redeemed of the Lord (the church) are invited there.
2. David reminds us about **three qualifications** for the worship of God:
  - a. A cleansing of the soul: forgiveness from God  
*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place? (Ps. 24:3)*
  - b. A righteousness from God: justification in Christ  
*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. (Psalm 24:4)*
  - c. A heart that seeks for God: the indwelling Spirit  
*He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah (Psalm 24:5-6)*
3. **Note something here in v. 6:** “Selah” (pause. “stop and think about this!”)
4. *Enigma of creation:* All men are expected to worship God, especially on the Lord’s Day (Sunday), but only the redeemed church can rightly do so. God’s saving grace enables our obedience in worship. Grace enables duty.
5. Here is life in the **New Dimension...**
  - a. The New Creation, the Church, living in the Created World
  - b. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*
  - c. “the hill of the Lord” = Mount Zion in Jerusalem
  - d. “His holy place” = the Tabernacle/Temple
  - e. Old Testament images of the Church of God in Christ  
*What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,  
“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.  
Therefore go out from their midst,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
then I will welcome you,  
and I will be a father to you,*

*and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor. 6:16-18)*

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

*As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-5)*

6. Redemption is *New Life* in Christ in the *New Dimension* of Creation – God’s *New Society*...The Church.
7. Psalm 24 instructs us that not only do we need...
  - a. ...to be *reminded* about the Creator and His Sabbath...
  - b. ...but also we need to *reorganize* our lives around the Savior and His Church...
  - c. ...and that the Spirit has something to give us as well...
8. That is stanza 3 and point #3...

### III. A REAFFIRMATION OF SALVATION (Psalm 24:7-10)

*Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O 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 gates!*

*And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?*

*The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!*

*Selah (Psalm 24:7-10)*

1. There is a call here, from David, to the City of Zion, Jerusalem, the City of God, to do two things:
  - a. “*Lift up your heads*” – give honor and attention to “*the King of Glory*”
  - b. To open up the gates that the King of Glory “*may come in*”
  - c. Said not once but **twice**, for emphasis
2. And this “*King of Glory*” is clearly identified...

- a. Not once but **twice**, for clarity...

*Who is this King of glory?*

*The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle! (Psalm 24:8)*

*Who is this King of glory?*

*The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!*

*Selah (Psalm 24:10)*

- b. **YHWH** – the Covenant-keeping God (“**LORD**”)

- c. We know Him now as the Lord Jesus Christ.

*...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ... (Titus 2:13)*

- d. *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)*

### 3. **Jesus Christ is the Lord of Glory!**

4. **C. H. Spurgeon:** Treasury of David: vol. 1; p. 377.

*These last verses reveal to us the great representative man, who answered to the full character laid down, and therefore by his own right ascended the holy hill of Zion. Our Lord Jesus Christ could ascend into the hill of the Lord because his hands were clean and his heart was pure, and if we by faith in him are conformed to his image we shall enter too.*

5. A foreshadowing of King Jesus entering the City of God...

- a. First...In the Old Testament in the *Shekinah Glory* over the Ark of the Covenant, entering the City of David...

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... (Hebrews 1:1-3)*

- b. Then: On Palm Sunday as He entered the City of Jerusalem, as the Glory of Salvation...

*Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,*

*“Say to the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”*

*The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mt. 21:1-9)*

- c. Finally: At the second coming when Christ will enter into the City of God as the Lord of Glory...

*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:11-16)*

6. In between His first coming and His second coming, the Holy Spirit is beckoning you to open the door of your heart (and your local church) to let the King of Glory in...  
*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)*
7. **This is the Essence of Redemption:** To enter the Kingdom of God by opening up your heart and life to the King of Glory.
8. *A surrender, in repentance and faith, to the victorious King Jesus, the Lord of Glory!*
9. **Bishop George Horne** (c. 1771) summarized this Psalm for the first day of the week, with these insightful words: (*Commentary on the Psalms*; p. 123).

*The God of Israel was Lord of the whole earth, by right of creation. The same divine person who created the world, hath since, in Christ, redeemed it; and it is his again, by that right also. But the church Christian is his, in a more peculiar manner, as the church of Israel formerly was. We are doubly bound to adore and to obey him. "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves," and "we are not our own, being bought with a price." This inference is, "Let us glorify God in our bodies, and in our spirits, which are," every way, "God's."*

**CONCLUSION:** This is why this Psalm for Sunday is what it is...

1. **A Recalibration of Life** around three glorious realities:
  - a. The Creation of God
  - b. The Church of Christ
  - c. Salvation by the Holy Spirit

2. When we start our week, we need to **recalibrate** our souls, our minds and our bodies with three truths:
  - a. *None of this is mine.* All belongs to God. And I must never think that I own myself or my “stuff,” or that I am God.
  - b. *I belong to the Church.* The City of God is the new creation in which God has a place for me. The Church is the center of life – not my work, not my school, not my marriage, kids or friends. The City of God shapes the city of man. It is my privilege to be invited into it – by forgiveness, by justification, by the indwelling Spirit.
  - c. *I must surrender daily to Jesus Christ, the King of Glory.* This is what redemption/salvation is all about: Surrendering to Jesus and entering the Kingdom of God.
3. **I am not my own. I belong to God.**

**I am not the center of the universe. The Church is.**

**I am not the Lord of my life. Jesus Christ is.**
4. With these realities set before me, every Sunday, in Church worship services, to begin each week, my life is **recalibrated**, just as Jesus said it must be...
 

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*  
(Matthew 6:33)
5. *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein.* (Psalm 24:1)
6. **And that includes ME!** Created for God, redeemed by Christ, invited by the Spirit into the Church!
7. **What a wonderful way to begin each week!**