

Worshipping with the Psalms



Psalm 24

A psalm by David

First strophe: I AM and the Creation

- 1 The earth is I AM's, and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
- 2 for he upon the seas did found it,
and upon the rivers set it firm.

2nd & 3rd strophes I AM and Worshippers

- 3 Who may go up on the mountain of I AM?
and who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 The clean of hands and the pure of heart,
who does not lift up his soul to falsehood
and does not swear deceitfully.
- 5 He shall lift up a blessing from I AM
and vindication from the God of his salvation.
- 6 This is the generation of those seeking him,
who seek your face—[God of] Jacob. Selah.
or who seek your face—[are] Jacob

4th and 5th strophes I AM and the Gates of Heaven

- 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 the King of glory?
I AM, strong and mighty,
I AM, 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?
I AM of hosts,
he is the King of glory! Selah.

Literary Context

The TNIV Study Bible notes that Psalms 15 and 24 form an inclusion around a cluster of psalms that together have been arranged in a chiasmic pattern, with Psalm 19 as the hinge. **Psalm 15** is matched with **Psalm 24**.

15 Who has access to the temple?

16 Confession of trust in *I AM*

17 Plea for deliverance from foes

18 Royal praise for deliverance

19 *I AM*'s glory in Creation and Torah

20-21 Prayer and praise for king's victory

22 Plea for deliverance from foes

23 Confession of trust in *I AM*

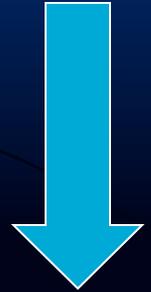
24 Who may ascend the holy hill?

Form and Structure

3 stanzas, 5 strophes, 10 verses

The Dynamic Movement: Narrowing focus

- I. Broadest Viewpoint: All creation
- II. Narrowing Viewpoint: Holy hill
- III. Close up lens: Entrance to Heavenly temple



center line who seek your face—[God of] Jacob

Stanzas:

- I. I AM as Creator and Owner of Creation
- II. I AM's relationship to worshippers
- III. I AM's entrance into the holy city

Psalm 24

A psalm by David

Viewpoint: The whole Creation

First strophe: The Architect and Owner of the Universe

- 1 The earth is I AM's, and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
- 2 for he upon the seas did found it,
and upon the rivers set it firm.

Viewpoint: The Holy Hill

The Holy Hill

- 3 Who may **go up** on the mountain of I AM?
and who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 The clean of hands and the pure of heart,
who does **not lift up** his soul to falsehood
and does not swear deceitfully.

2nd & 3rd strophes The Holy Hill

- 5** He shall lift up a blessing from I AM
and vindication from the God of his salvation.
- 6** This is the generation of those seeking him,
who seek your face—[God of] Jacob. Selah.
or who seek your face—are Jacob

The Jabbok



Jabbok fords looking east Mahanaim on right

Jacob prays as he wrestles a mysterious man

Then Jacob was left **alone**,
and a man **wrestled** (lit. “rolling in the dust”)
with him until daybreak.

When he saw that he had not prevailed against him,
he touched the socket of his thigh;
so the socket of Jacob’s thigh was dislocated
while he wrestled with him.

Then he said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.”
But he said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

(Gen 32:24-26)

Jacob prays as he wrestles a mysterious man

So he said to him, “What is your name?”

And he said, “Jacob.”

He said, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but *Israel*; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.”

(Gen 32:27-28)

ישראל

Jacob prays as he wrestles a mysterious man

Then Jacob asked him and said,

“Please tell me your name.”

But he said,

“Why is it that you ask my name?”

And he blessed him there.

So Jacob named the place **Peniel** (“*face of God*”),
for *he said*,

“I have seen God face to face,
yet my life has been preserved.”

(Gen 32:29-30)

פְּנֵי־אֵל

Jacob prays as he wrestles a mysterious man

Now the *sun rose* upon him
just as he crossed over Penuel,
and he was *limping* on his thigh.



Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel
do not eat the sinew of the hip
which is on the socket of the thigh,
because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh
in the sinew of the hip.

(Gen 32:31-32)

פניאל

4th and 5th strophes

The Warrior King Returns from Battle

- 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 the King of glory?
I AM, strong and mighty,
I AM, 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?
I AM of hosts,
he is the King of glory! Selah.

Reflections

David's bringing ark into Jerusalem
Jesus' ascension