

The King of Glory Psalm 24

Intro

Ladies and Gents I present to you Mr. Don Gorske - a 64 year old Wisconsin native who holds the Guinness World Record in a most unusual category.

According to a recent New York Post article, Mr. Gorske has been eating 2 McDonalds Big Macs every day for the past...46 years. Over the course of that time he has eaten 30,000 Big Macs and over that span he has only gone eight days total without consuming a Big Mac

Astonishingly, by all accounts our boy Don is healthy, slender with outstanding cholesterol levels

The article also reports that as a concession to his wife's insistence to eat more fruits and vegetables, he has also added one McDonald's fruit and yogurt parfait to his daily diet. He can't remember the last time he ate an apple or a banana. **"Last year, I had some corn"** - all of this resembles the nutritional preferences of the people who live in my house

30,000 Bic Macs - quite a feat - but he's not done...not by a long shot.

"I love the patties, I love the sauce, I can't get enough of it...I'm trying to get to 40,000, and that'll take me another 14 years"

Don Gorske is all in with the Bic Mac. He aspires for more - his aspiration is that at age 78 he will have eaten 40,000 Big Macs. He's dedicated himself to eating Big Macs and exerts his thoughts and energy towards his singular passion.

Don Gorske aspiration is really just a silly expression of a reality innate to all human beings. We are aspirational creatures. We aspire - we direct our hopes and ambitions toward all sorts of things

We aspire for advancement and fulfillment in our career, to find a spouse and have a family, to own a home, for our kids to succeed. We aspire for security and safety. We want to be respected, we want to be useful, we aspire to serve others and make a difference

Surely, the greatest aspiration we can ever have is to direct our hopes and ambitions toward knowing and worshipping the God of heaven and earth. To worship him in truth and to live in the light of his favor and presence

How do we get there? How do we direct our ambition towards this worship? The Psalm we will examine this morning is intended to direct us toward the kind of worship that God requires. All who aspire to know God and worship him in truth must pay close attention to this divinely inspired Psalm

READ PSALM

Psalm informs us of the nature of true worship - if we aspire to worship God on his terms, to live in the good of his presence and favor, we must 1. Submit to God's Sovereignty 2. Meet God's Qualifications 3. Celebrate God's King

I. Submit to God's Sovereignty

- A. We don't know the exact occasion for this Psalm - written by King David (superscript) - it could have been a song the Israelites sang as they returned from a victory over the Canaanites, it's possible that it was written in light of the return of the Ark of the Covenant in 1 Chronicles 13.
- B. What we do know is that this Psalm was read in Israel on the first day of each week as a song of celebration - directing the listener to worship the LORD - Yahweh for his might and grace and glory. Further it is clearly a Messianic Psalm - prophetic pointing toward the coming of the Christ God's Messiah
- C. David directs our attention to God in his absolute, creational sovereignty. We are presented immediately with the reality that v. 1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and all those who dwell in the earth. A vision of the transcendent, sovereign reign of the creator of the universe.
 1. All things in heaven and earth were created by him and for him
 - a) Canyons and crickets and constellations and crawfish
 - b) Mountains and minnows and manatees
 - c) Ant hills and aardvarks and amoebas and amber waves of grain
 - d) All people, all tribes, all nations - not just the God of Israel as ethnic Israel was tempted to believe - God of the African, American, Mexican, German, Indian, Pakistani, Australian aborigines - all stand in equality as God's possession - no one dare consider themselves superior to another race
 - (1) All things belong to him because v. 2 - he created all things - founded upon the seas - established upon the rivers as we read about in Genesis 1:9
 - (a) Imbedded polemic, undermining the pagan nations who saw the seas and rivers as God's - supreme over these false gods
 - (b) He needs nothing for he has all things, he is supreme in his power undiluted by any weakness, satisfied in the Trinitarian reality of his divine reign and ownership of all things.
 2. Holy, uncreated, self-sufficient, existing eternally by his own power - not one speck of dust or one single atom existing outside of his control.

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine! (Abraham Kuyper)

Not as a petulant child - but as the supreme master and rightful owner of all things

[11] Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

- D. King David directs our attention to the LORD - Yahweh - the one true God, maker, sustainer, sovereign master over all things - because if we will worship God we must see God as he is. Not our pathetic attempts to come up with gods we feel comfortable with.

E. Application

1. This understanding in verse 1 is intended to serve us well. To see God in his sovereign, creational reign over all things. For those who see him and submit to him and trust him as he is there is much comfort for us.
 - a) Hope in a chaotic world - in the mystery of his sovereignty he is superintending all things for his glory and the good of his people
 - b) Informs how we view our checking account. It is all his. We ask - "how can my spending and giving reflect that I am simply a steward of what God has given me?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)

2. Also presents us with a dilemma. We are the creature and he is the eternal, transcendent, sovereign Creator. How can one approach this God? How can one draw near him in the immensity of his sovereignty?

II. Meet God's Qualifications

- A. V. 3 - David rightly asks the question we all should have - who shall - who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand - who may stay in his holy place - his holy presence? How do you climb this Everest of holiness and power and glory?

Illustration: If one aims to climb Mt. Everest, one must prepare carefully. One must consider what is required to make it to the top. No-one who values their lives flippantly approaches Everest. One does not show up wearing a fanny pack and flip-flops and accurately believes they will be successful in the climb. One must ensure they have sufficient physical strength and cardiovascular stamina. One must stock up on climbing equipment and food and oxygen. They are requirements that one must fulfill in order to be successful in the climb. What then is required to climb this holy hill of God? How will we scale the holy mountain of God's might and sovereignty?

B. OVER - UP!!!

- C. Three Conditions - Three Qualifications that must be met - V. 4

1. Clean hands and a pure heart - hands - all our actions must be unstained by sin - heart - speaks to our motivations.
 - a) Ever sin in your actions? Ever do something out of selfish self-interest?

Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"? (Proverbs 20:9)

2. Does not lift up soul - does not worship false gods
 - a) Ever look to anything other than God to satisfy?
3. Does not swear deceitfully
 - a) Lie? Ever adjust the truth or exaggerate slightly to make yourself look better?
 - (1) 3 conditions - clean actions, pure motivations, only ever looking to God to satisfy our souls, always absolutely honest in every situation - if we're honest with ourselves we got a problem - none of us meet the conditions. Not one of us will climb that holy mountain, not one of us will stand in the presence of our Holy and Sovereign Creator apart from divine grace.

There is a standard of holiness for fellowship with the Lord, and the standard is so high that we must acknowledge that the only way we may find acceptance by God is through his gracious provision of atonement. (Allen Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*, Vol. 1, p. 589)

- b) He has graciously provided! One has ascended that Holy hill - the righteous one the Lord Jesus Christ. Clean hands and a pure heart, pure and unwavering worship of and submission to the one true God, no deceit in his mouth (1 Peter 2:22). This one...oh this one willingly took his lovely perfection to the cross where God hurled upon him our impurity and deceit and crushed him for our sin. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 - he made him to be sin who knew no sin so we could become the righteousness of God.
 - (1) He climbed that hill called Golgotha so that we might climb God's holy hill in him.
- D. V. 5 and 6 fill out the picture - happily for sinners like you and me. We receive blessing from the Lord - he purifies our hearts - we receive righteousness from the God of our salvation. V. 3 can't describe morally perfect people else why would they need righteousness and salvation?
- E. What David only knew in part we have come to know in the fullness of the gospel - By faith we are accounted as righteous - justified - righteousness from the God of our salvation
 - 1. What is described in v. 4 - is the lifestyle of those who have been purified and justified in Christ.
 - a) Make no mistake though - The gift of a purified heart and forgiveness of sins and righteousness will always be followed by the pursuit of actual holiness. Lovely description of the saints - imperfect yes, always dependent on grace - true holiness in the presence of our holy God. We take hold of the promise:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

- F. v. 6 - such is the generation - the people group of those who seek God. Psalm 14 - no-one seeks for God - apart from an intervention of sovereign Grace. This who have received grace - oh we seek for him - we seek the face of God - Numbers 6 - the favor of God - like Jacob who came face to face with God in Genesis 32
 - 1. By his grace - clean, purified, worshipping rightly and with integrity, people who are blessed by God and have received righteousness.
- G. Application
 - 1. These are the conditions - these are the requirements if one aspires to worship God
 - a) To be accounted as righteous by God in Christ - given a new heart and accompanying pursuit of and growth in holiness.
 - b) If you have - you are welcome to ascend that holy hill! You are invited - you are welcome to stand - not crawl into his holy presence because of Christ
 - c) Privilege of communion and prayer - each day upon rising and through out our day it is our privilege to climb that hill as we pray and study and meditate upon his Word.
 - (1) Each Sunday - massively important - we climb that holy hill together with joy through our Savior. NOT TO BE MISSED - VITAL
 - d) Grace in Christ to purify - grace to sanctify for all those hunger and thirst for righteousness - we have God's grace and his Holy Spirit so that in the power of his Spirit we might cast off that sin and come into the sunlight of his holy love.

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

- (1) Oh that I would reflect verse the beautiful life of v. 3!
 - e) All through King Jesus - his death and resurrection and we are directed further towards Christ in his glorious kingship. True worship always ends in a celebration of God's King

III. Celebrate God's King

- A. The great King David anticipates the coming of a greater King - the king of glory comes. We find hundreds of years later in the coming of Christ that he was welcomed as a King as he entered Jerusalem the center of the nation of Israel:

[37] As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, [38] saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:37-38)

1. Those in that great city of Jerusalem just days later would kill him at Calvary...but one may rightly see here that David saw something of future glory that we find in his glorious resurrection and ascension to heaven. Throughout Christian history this Psalm has been used to celebrate his ascension.
2. For he rose from the grave and ascended to heaven and one can almost hear the voice of heaven calling out verses 7-10 as he comes - standing before the flowing banners, the towering ramparts of the walls of heaven
 - a) A voice calls - Lift up your heads, O gates and be lifted up O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in
 - b) Response - who is this King of glory
 - c) He is the LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle for he has conquered sin and death and the grave - victorious over all enemies
 - d) So - lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in
 - e) Once more - who is this King of glory?
 - f) Let me tell you who this King of glory is - he is the Lord of hosts - THE LORD OF THE ANGELIC ARMIES OF HEAVEN - HE IS THE KING OF GLORY - NOW LIFT UP THOSE GATES AND RECEIVE THIS KING OF GLORY!

**Rejoice ye shining worlds on high,
Behold the King of glory nigh;!
Who can this King of glory be?
The mighty Lord, the Saviour's he (Isaac Watts)**

- (1) Oh the sound of celebration must have been deafening as the King of Glory entered into the glory of heaven and took his rightful place at the right hand of the majesty on high

[3] 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, [4] having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Hebrews 1:3-4)

- B. Where Adam was given dominion - to exercise God's rule and failed - abdicated his reign through his sin - God said "I will take back the kingship from you and hold it for another" - King David in his reign over Israel was a shadow a type - but now the Son of David has come - David saw his day and rejoiced - the great King of glory has come - given all authority in heaven and on earth and he shall reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet!
- C. OUR KING! OUR KING! WE CELEBRATE OUR KING! WE OPEN UP THE GATES OF OUR HEARTS TO OUR KING - ROYAL LOVE AND GRACE!

1. He advances his kingdom - we with him - **THERE IS ANOTHER GATE THAT WILL BE LIFTED UP I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18b)**

2. **THAT'S US!** We advance with our King - we go to our neighbors and to the nations with the gospel - the sword that makes the wounded whole. O King Jesus we ride into the battle for souls in the wake of your glory. **LEAD US INTO THE GLORIOUS MISSION OF THE SALVATION OF SOULS. EVERY EFFORT - BRIDGE COURSE**

He is Jehovah. He is mighty. He is almighty. He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. He is mighty in battle. He is the Captain of our salvation. He is invincible. Who ever hardened himself against Christ and prospered? (William Plumer, *Psalms*, p. 325)

D. Application

1. You serve a King of glory - he will not let you go - his reign is one of humane kindness, gentleness, wisdom, steadfast love and faithfulness
 - a) Madness of politics - world on fire as sides are drawn - tempted to fear, anxiety, depression - oh keep your eyes on who is actually in charge - your king of glory
 - b) House is chaotic tomorrow morning - remind yourself, remind your spouse, remind you kids of the glory of the King and his reign over your home
 - c) Suffering does not relent - tempted to despair - oh you have a King
 - (1) Oh trust your king - he walk with you in comfort now - he has promised and WILL bring you into the kingdom of his everlasting love and Shalom - peace, wholeness, eternal joy

We know the might of Jesus by the battles which he has fought, the victories which he has won over sin, and death, and hell, and we clap our hands as we see him leading captivity captive in the majesty of his strength. Oh, for a heart to sing his praises! Mighty hero, be thou crowned forever King of kings and Lord of lords. (Charles Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*)

OH FOR A HEART TO SING HIS PRAISES! In every season

Close

Oh that would we aspire for more than the fleeting things of this world - aspire for more than eating Big Macs (I like them a lot) Aspire for nothing less than a whole life of worship of the LORD

As we see submit to him in his sovereignty, ascending his holy hill as Christ meets the qualifications to approach a holy God, as we celebrate the King

Let us be those who are ever and always singing his praises!

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