

“Life in-Between What is Ultimate”

yāšab יָשַׁב - The Game of Dwelling on Earth – Pt. 7

February 25, 2024

INTRO ...a Psalm that is Rich with “ULTIMATE THINGS”!!

“Every general theological work needs to begin with the doctrine of God. Why? Because what we believe about God affects what we believe about all else. In fact, some Christian philosophers have argued that we have not really understood anything in the universe until we have seen its relationship to God, for he is the unchanging eternal Fact and the Creator of all that exists, so that relationship to him must be the most basic relationship of all. Certainly, the doctrine of God is the base from which all theology arises and to which it all returns. For all of us, our beliefs as well as our actions ought to have God as their focus.” **Geoffrey Grogan**, “Prayer, Praise & Prophecy - a Theology of the Psalms”, p. 65

Ps 24 ...Is like a “Yasab Sandwich” —It has 2 Slices of “Ultimate” with Our Lives in Between

— (v. 1-2)— **Gen 1:1**

— (v. 3-6)— Life in the In-Between

— (v. 7-10) — **Rev. 21:1-5, Rev 22:13-14**

— In This Particular Way—Ps 24 is the “Story of Our Yasab (Dwelling/Existence)” ...God is the “Alpha & Omega”!

Ultimate Things & Urgent Things...

We Need “ULTIMATE THINGS” ...in order to understand our smaller things!

“...what we believe about God affects what we believe about all else. In fact, ...we have not really understood anything in the universe until we have seen its relationship to God, for he is the unchanging eternal Fact and the Creator of all that exists, so that relationship to him must be the most basic relationship of all. ...For all of us, our beliefs as well as our actions ought to have God as their focus.” **Geoffrey Grogan**, “Prayer, Praise & Prophecy - a Theology of the Psalms”, p. 65

...We cannot understand our “existence” without engaging a CREATOR ...we cannot understand our “moments” without being informed by ETERNITY

“Part 1 (v. 1, 2) affirms that the whole earth with all the people, animals, crops and everything else in it is the Lord’s... Part 2 (v. 3-6) echoes the question of Ps 15:1. Who may enter and survive in the presence of this covenant God?... Part 3 (v. 7-10) celebrates, with vivid and memorable repetition, the triumphant return of the covenant God after military victory... Putting these together, we may start with part 1 and part 3. The Creator God is sovereign over all creation (1, 2). And yet He needs to win a war against evil to establish His Kingdom over all. When He does so He returns to His ‘mountain’, His ‘holy place’ of government (7-10). When He returns, He brings with Him those who are qualified to ascend this mountain to this holy place.” **Christopher Ash**, *Teaching Psalms*, vol. 2, p. 69

...These Are “Ultimate Things”—that Explain My Daily Smaller Things!

— **Between Gen. & Rev. ...a WAR of RESTORATION is being Fought!** ...I am part of that warfare! I report for duty—each time that alarm clock goes off! ...I will face schemes and tactics and live bullets! ...There Will Be Suffering & Casualties!

...BEWARE— “Ultimate Things” tend to get lost in the presence of smaller “Urgent Things”

“The question this Psalm asks is one of the most important any man or woman can think about: ...This is an ultimate issue that everyone faces, a question everyone must answer. The danger with the really big questions of life, of course, is that we seldom stop to think about them. We can live our lives at ninety miles an hour without ever stopping to ask if we are going in the right direction.” **James Johnston**, “Psalms 1-41” PTW series

“Several years ago an experienced cotton mill manager said to me, “Your greatest danger is letting the urgent things crowd out the important.” He didn't realize how hard his maxim hit. It often returns to haunt and rebuke me by raising the critical problem of priorities.

We live in constant tension between the urgent and the important. The problem is that the important task seldom must be done today or even this week. Extra hours of prayer and Bible study, a visit with that nonChristian friend, careful study of an important book: these projects can wait. But the urgent tasks call for instant action- endless demands pressure every hour and day.

A man's home is no longer his castle; it is no longer a place away from urgent tasks because the telephone breaches the walls with imperious demands. The momentary appeal of these tasks seems irresistible and important, and they devour our energy. But in the light of time's perspective their deceptive prominence fades; with a sense of loss we recall the important task pushed aside. We realize we've become slaves to the tyranny of the urgent.” **Charles Hummel**, “The Tyranny of the Urgent” (1967!!)

— The “Daily Grind” of Life has this way of creating rhythms and routines that become an “end game” in themselves!

...What's on your list of “Urgent Things”? ...Consult your calendar or “to-do-App” ...think about the most recent “Sprint of Activity” you were hoping to “just get past” ...Sit down with your “internal Fatigue-Factor Black Box” and ask it—“Why do I feel so Exhausted!”

...If we're not “Careful & Intentional”—we tend to do vast chunks of life (months, years, child-rearing decades, career decades) with our heads down and a “Small Awareness of What is ULTIMATE” in this World and in Our Particular Moments!

“Your greatest danger is letting the urgent things crowd out the important.” ...We realize we've become slaves to the tyranny of the urgent.” **Charles Hummel**, “The Tyranny of the Urgent”

...The “Instruction Page” of Ps 24 Keeps Me in Touch with the “BIG (but ‘far away’) ULTIMATE THINGS”

v. 1-2 ...Tells me **ULTIMATELY** where Our Existence & Life Conditions come from!!

v. 7-10 ...**Reveal the Ultimate End Game!!** ...As likened to the End Time Triumph of the King and the Dawning of the New Heaven and the New Earth! (Rev 20-22)

v. 7-10 ...Provides the “**APPLAUSE**” at the End of It All!!

...ILLUST: **Concerts & Super Bowl Champs!!!**

...These things are the “Kindergarten Classes” for the End Game of Creation!!

Ultimately Informed “Here & Now” ...

2 Cor 4:8-9, 16-18 *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ...¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

“Here & Now Ministry” to our Souls NEEDS to be Frequently Touched by ULTIMATE THINGS, as we do the game of Life!!

Col 1:3-5 *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel...*

Col 1:15-22 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...*

...Their “DAILY SPACES” (their routines, their monotonous rhythms, their 30,000th morning alarm clock)— Need These “BIG IDEAS” to inform the much smaller moments of their existence!

—Ps 24:1-2 Ideas (Creation/Origin/authorities ...how all things “hold together”)

...**Remember Ps 24:3-6** ...the requirement of “clean hands, pure heart, and a soul that doesn’t entrust itself to false things” ...**How’s that getting done?—Col 1:19-22**

“We read in the Bible that Christ was the only man who has completely lived up to God’s requirements.

Did he have “clean hands” (v. 4)? The Bible says that Christ committed no sin (Hebrews 4:15). Instead his hands served us, healed us, and were pierced by nails for you and me. “Pure heart” (Psalm 24:4)? The Bible says that he was “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Did he trust in God? The Bible says that he “entrust[ed] himself to [God] who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23). Truthful? The Bible says that no deceit was ever found in his mouth (1 Peter 2:22).

So Christ alone met these four requirements. And as our text promises, he received “blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (Psalm 24:5). The Resurrection was God’s great vindication of his sinless Son.

The good news of God’s Word is that Jesus Christ did not meet God’s requirements just for himself. He came to make you and me qualified to come into God’s holy presence. The Scriptures say,

For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21) **James Johnston**, Psalms 1-41, PTW Comm

I need these Ultimate Big Bookends in Order for Me to do Life in My Small Daily Spaces!!

“The picture in verses 7-10 is Christ ascending Mount Zion, the hill of the Lord, riding up to the gates of the heavenly city as its King.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

that the King of glory may come in. (24:7)

These gates are being called to open to Christ as he rides in triumph.

... So with that picture in mind we imagine an angel who responds, “Who is this King of glory?” (24:8a). And the answer is shouted back, “The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!” (v. 8b).

How is Christ “mighty in battle” (v. 8)? Christ triumphed over death, Hell, and the grave through his cross. And so he rode up to the gates of Heaven as a conqueror; the battle is won. **James Johnston, Psalms 1-41, PTW Comm**

My Soul will need That “BIG ULTIMATE” Reality to Inform My “Momentary Afflictions”!!

...THIS is Why I Need SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP!! ...and Worship & Prayer Gatherings! —The “URGENT” Things tend to “silence” & “marginalize” the Ultimate Things—I Need Moments in the “In-Between” where I am in touch with what is ULTIMATELY TRUE about My “Yasab”!!