

# Christ in the Psalms

## The Psalm of the Glorious King

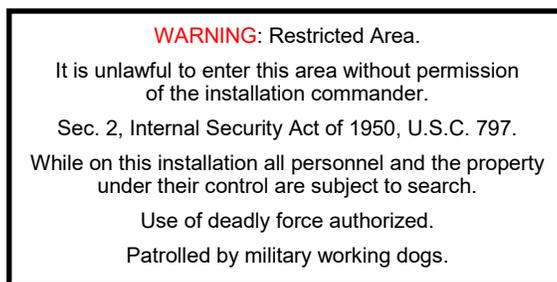


WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Fall 2021

Growing up the son of soldier gave me some unusual opportunities. Some invited me in. Others kept me out. There were both literal and figurative signs stating either ENTER or DO NOT ENTER. Now some of these were pretty ordinary...signs you might see almost anywhere. Others were far from ordinary. Signs with severe implications...and Dad, the Old Sarge, made it very, very clear to my brother, sisters, and myself that any indicator, intention, or success regarding disobedience where those signs were concerned would be met with equally severe implications...if you know what I mean.

In some cases, the DO NOT ENTER signs had extra language. For example:



This one needed far fewer words.



Some needed no words at all.



Signs like these are important to everyone. Signs like these were especially important to a mischievous boy running with his friends all over a United States Army Post. Between heavily guarded ware houses, motor pools, and live fire ranges there was lots to explore...again, if you know what I mean. So, the DO NOT ENTER signs were necessary. However, the COME ON IN signs were loaded with life, laughter, love, and loyalty. You know, there was Cookie, the Mess Sergeant, saying, "Sure guys, I'm not supposed to, but come on in. Have a Coke and piece of pie. Then get out of here before anyone catches us." There was also the Sarge in charge of the Post Gym...always extending us an invitation to work out on the trampolines or weights, or shoot some hoops with the G.I.'s on the basketball court. The ENTER signs at the post movie theater, snack bar, PX, bowling alley, library, and youth center were beacons for entrance into all things safe, sane, spontaneous, and even spectacular.

Signs are like this. They either chase you off or invite you in. Naturally, I prefer the latter even while I appreciate the former. This, in fact, might just be one of the most important things a person must know. Seriously, into who's life do you choose to enter? Into your life, whom do you choose to invite? Turning it around, who is inviting you into his or her life? Which one is safe? Which one should actually have a Do Not Enter attached? And, what about the Lord? Is there a distinction with God? Do ENTER and DO NOT ENTER apply with him? Sure they do. God has one way. It's the only way. You enter it or you do not enter. Mercifully, he bids us enter even as he desires to enter into relationship with us. See for yourself in Psalm 24...

## Psalm 24 (ESV)

*“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.” (vss. 1,2)*

*“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” (vss. 3-6)*

*“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” (vss. 7-10)*

### Introduction

**Part One (vss. 1,2): The Lord our God is the creator of all.** He is, therefore, sovereign over all. In today’s language...he is large and in charge, because it’s all his...he made it, he protects it, he maintains it, he rules it, and he will complete it. Amen!

### Part Two (vss. 3-6): The earth is filled with three questions—

—who will enter heaven by way of the physical realm? At the intersection between heaven and earth, between time and eternity, between space and infinity, between matter and spirit, who will not only see the ENTER HERE sign, but will, with marvelous abandon, run full on, with no looking back, into the holy of holies?

—who will receive this marvelous abandon...this longing to run into the holy?

—who will receive them as they come running...who will, in even greater measure, run to welcome them into his arms, into his forever home, into his forever joy?

**Part Three (vss 7-10): The Lord does not wait for us to run to him.** While the previous section declares humanity’s invitation to enter the realm of God’s relational kingdom, this section heralds the coming of the King of Glory to us. Here is where a sign is not needed. God does not need an invitation to come charging into our lives, to take up residence in our circles, to walk among us extending his invitation. Afterall, we’re occupying his land, his domain, his sphere of influence. Yet, just as he needs no sign, neither does he need us. Just as he does not need us, neither does he beg, needle, nag, or meddle in our lives. He’s a perfect gentleman. He stands near. He invites. He woos. We need but look to him...and receive him in.

### From the Psalm to Christ

#### Part One (vss. 1,2...to Colossians 1:15-17):

*“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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

#### Part Two (vss. 3-6...to Romans 3:21-26):

*“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”*

**Part Three (vss. 7-10...to John 1:1-14):**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Oh man, now there's your sign...

- ...Jesus is the King of Glory
- ...Jesus is the Lord, strong and mighty
- ...Jesus is the Lord, mighty in battle
- ...Jesus is the Lord of hosts...the King of Glory!

The sign of welcome was...

- ...God's creation
- ...God's intervention...the incarnation
- ...God's invitation...full of grace and truth
- ...God's personal relationship with all who have received him...the Word made flesh, dwelling among us, of whom we have seen his glory, glory as the only Son from the Father...the King of Glory!

Have you seen him?  
Do you recognize him?  
Do you know him?  
Have you received him?

