

THE LORD OF HOSTS

By Jo Spangler

Lift up your heads, O ye gates
And be lifted up, ye everlasting doors
And the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is the king of Glory?
The Lord strong and mighty
The lord mighty in battle
He is the King of Glory.

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And the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is the King of Glory?
The Lord of Hosts,
He is the King of Glory.

While studying about the glory I read Psalm 24 and realized something new. We know that this is a psalm about Jesus; He is the King of Glory. And we are ordained by God to be changed into the image of His beloved Son. His Son is the King of Glory and, if we are to be conformed to His image, glory has to be involved.

Jesus himself said in John 17 that the glory the Father had given Him, he in turn gave to us. What I would like to know is, where is it now?

In Ezekiel we read that the glory departed from Israel, moving a small distance at a time until it was gone. The same has happened in the church, the glory that Jesus restored to the earth within the primitive church has departed. We are naked without the glory, just as Adam and Eve were.

So if the church Jesus is coming for is pure and spotless, and that church must be glorious, then they must be living in the glory when He comes, for that is the only thing that hides the nakedness of humanity.

What I saw that day in Psalm 24 was the description of the name of the Lord as the King of Glory. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, (the Captain of the Army of the Lord), He is the King of glory.

The description of his army is in Rev 19.14 "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horse, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

The church Jesus returns for is a glorious church. Hebrews tells us that when he returns the second time it is NOT to deal with sin, sin has already been dealt with. He is coming for saints who according to Peter followed Jesus' example of:

1. Had no sin (thus confirming Jesus is NOT coming back to help us with sin, we had better do that ourselves since He has already made provision for it.)
2. Had no guile in His mouth (this means people in whom there is no duplicity, deceit, or mixture of human ways with God's ways)
3. Who, when reviled, did not revile,
4. Who suffered, but did not threaten,
5. Who committed Himself to the One who judges righteously?

This is the kind of church Jesus is coming in and for.

OK, so much for the idea that we can wait for Jesus to come back to rid us of our sin. He has ALREADY DONE THAT. So much for the idea that Jesus understands our little idiosyncrasies and will look the other way when He comes. It is written down in black and white the characteristics He is looking for in His people. So much for the idea that we are free to live our lives any way we wish and still see the kingdom. The kingdom of God has very strict criteria. Why else would the King tell us "MANY will say, didn't we prophesy and do signs and wonders in your name? And He says, "I never knew you."

He will only know (recognize) the ones who fit HIS (not our) criteria. And He states that as the ones who do the will of the Father. The will of the Father for character development in the saints is very clear, no sin, no guile, no reviling, committing your life to God.

I know when anybody says no sin many cries will be heard about perfection, etc. But I am not a theologian. I am not interested in useless debates and arguments. I am interested in the lives of people I see who are being misled into believing that no matter how they live their life, if they have their ticket to heaven by saying a few words, they are saved. The Bible simply does not back up that theory. It is very specific about the process by which God calls, justifies, sanctifies and glorifies.

Whoa, what was that last thing? Glorify? Well, if you glorify something glory will have to be involved in the process. So we are back to the King of Glory, the Lord of Hosts, back to the army in white that is pure and clean.

When Steve Gray (missionary to Tanzania) visited our home group to talk about the glory his groups experienced in Africa he made the remark that someone said to him that as one stays in the glory, you no longer do warfare, you are warfare.

This makes perfect sense from Psalm 24. The Lord of Hosts, the warfare King, the King of Glory. Once

the saints are living in the glory (or clothed in the glory, or covered with the glory, or whatever it's called) they become the same nightmare to the demons that Jesus was. They are made into His image of the King of Glory.

Before you go cutting my head off because I am arrogant or forward with the Lord inferring that we are called to this, consider Jeremiah 15.16, "Your words were found and I ate them and they became to me a joy and the delight of my heart for I am called by your name, O LORD OF HOSTS." !!!!!

We are called by His name, the Lord of Hosts, when we eat his words (eat his flesh and drink his blood.) When we eat those words and they become the joy and delight of our heart we are on our way to the glory.

It is a process, like all of salvation. We get little glimpses, (unless we are like Steve Gray and get big doses as He ministers in Africa.) and they encourage us on to pursue the Lord who, of course, is our Glory and the source of all glory. Paul says in Ephesians "to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations."

Wait a minute, glory in the church???? Yes, there is supposed to be glory in the church. Why would we ever doubt that we should pursue the glory of God or that there is any question that this is the will of God for His children? Shake off the lies that would tell you this is too high for you. Jesus said it, Paul said it, and Peter said it. How many times do we have to be told to penetrate the deception and lies stuffed in our heads? His Will for us is to live in the glory.

Lift up your heads, a command of GOD. Yet in Psalm 3 His grace says that He is the lifter of our heads. He will even do this for us. O, God, lift up my head, above my enemies all around me (Psalm 27).

And be lifted up you everlasting doors. And be transformed into His image. He is THE Door; we are everlasting doors. He is THE Gate; we are gates through which the King of Glory will come into the earth. O, Hallelujah, get this, people. How we have been lied to, how we have been deceived! The promise is "The King of Glory shall come in." Does He say a thing and NOT do it? We only have to lift our heads to His Light and Truth and the King of Glory will come into our lives and to the lives of everyone in our sphere. Can you grasp this? Can you feel the love of God in this promise?

John said, "We have seen His Glory". This is what the whole church should be saying. Once you have seen the glory, been in the Glory, been transformed by the glory, you can never go back. There is nothing to go back to, which is why Peter responded to Jesus with the words, "Where would we go?"

I am called by His Name, "the Lord of Hosts". I am called to His Glory, the King of Glory. I have seen the Lord, high and lifted up, and indeed I cry, "Woe is me, I am undone." But I have a promise from my King, that He shall come in, come into the world through me. Who am I to deny Him the honor and glory of such a miracle? O Lord, Come. Come to your church, lead us by your light and truth, to your holy hill, into the Holy of Holies and let us dwell with you in the Glory of God.

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