

“COME AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD” – Is 2:3

[Paihia Family Church – 29/7/01 – EKB]

A. Reading: Is 2:2-4

God is calling His people to come into His dwelling place, through Christ.

In this reading His dwelling place is called “the mountain of the Lord’s house,” “the mountain of the Lord,” “the house of the God of Jacob,” “Zion,” and “Jerusalem.”

“The **mountain of the Lord**” is a term used for the dwelling place of God. (See the description of the vision under C.) *Heb 12:22, Ps 48:1,2.*

“The **house of God**” is called “the church of the living God” in *1Tim 3:15.*

“**Zion**” is a part of the city of Jerusalem and is sometimes called “**the city of David**”, *2Sam 5:7,9, Ps 48:1,2.* “**Zion**” means **the fortress**. “**Zion**” is sometimes used to refer to the Spirit-filled church, *Heb 12:22-24.*

“**Jerusalem**” means **the city of peace**. There are two “Jerusalems.” There is the present one in Israel but there is also the “**Jerusalem above**,” “**the heavenly Jerusalem**,” *Heb 12:22, Gal 4:26, Rev 21:2,3.*

B. Reading: Ps 24:1-10.

1. *Verse 1* **The earth belongs to the Lord** and all that is in it. This includes all people, in every place, *Rev 5:9,10, 2Pet 3:9, Jn 3:16.*
2. *Verse 2* **God formed it upon the seas** as we read in *Gen 1:2,9,10*, and so it is His.
3. *Verse 3* **The number one purpose of God for His people** who have come to Him through faith in Christ, is to ascend the mountain of the Lord into His presence, and stand before Him in His holy place, *Heb 10:19,20, Deut 33:18,19, Is 57:13.* Once there we offer to Him the sacrifices of righteousness and worship, *Deut 33:19, Ps 95:6, Ps 96:9.*
4. *Verse 4* **To be able to do this we need:**
 - a. **“clean hands” of acceptable behaviour before God.** For example, in *Lk 10:25-37*, we read of **the Good Samaritan’s** treatment of a Jewish man who hated, despised and avoided him. The Jewish man was lying half dead on the road. The Priest and the Levite, who were appointed by God to care for the Jewish people, passed by on the other side. But the despised Samaritan, *Jn 4:9, Mat 10:5, Ac 10:28*, reached out in love. To do this he had to have a **heart of forgiveness** for the Jewish man, **release him from his judgment, hand the problem over to God to sort out and be willing to reach out in compassion and mercy.** He gave his time, energy, clothes, oil, wine, and money.
 - b. **“pure heart” of acceptable motives before God.** For example in *1Cor 13:1-8a* we read that God highly values **the motive of love for all we do.** The Samaritan’s heart was operating in the motive of love. He reached out to do good to a person who would normally have nothing to do with him. When love is our motive, and practical kindness are our actions, then we can **ascend into God’s presence.**

Also

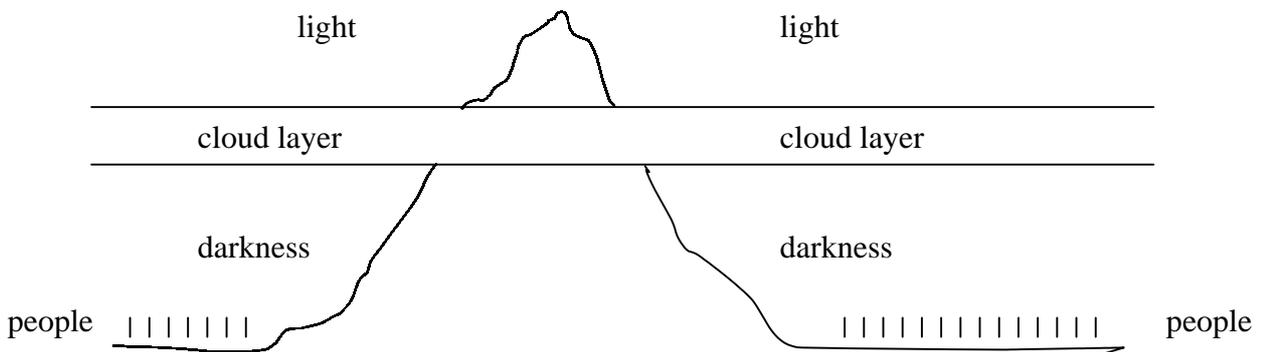
to do this we need to avoid:

- c. **allowing our souls to focus on the empty, vain idols of this world** such as money, pleasure, lands, houses or whatever, and focus our desires on the Lord, *Col 3:1-3, Mat 6:19,20,21,23, Mat 7:21, 1Cor 10:31.*

- d. **making promises with no intention of keeping them.** If we say we will do something, we need to keep our word if at all possible. If not, ring and apologise. Avoid hypocrisy. Be real, genuine and true to label.
5. *Verse 5* **As we come up to God's standard, He pours out His blessing upon us.** He showers upon us His righteousness and salvation, *Pro 10:22, Hos 10:12, Is 45:8, Rom 5:17.*
6. *Verse 6* The people of God who are able to ascend into the Lord's holy place are the people **who seek after Him**, who seek the face of the God of Jacob, (KJV – marginal reading), *Jer 29:13, Is 55:6, Hos 10:12.*
7. *Verse 7-10* **Once the saints have ascended the hill of the Lord and stand in His holy place** they have the ministry of lifting up the gates for the King of glory to come in. The gates are the gates of praise, worship, thanksgiving and glorifying God, *Is 60:18, Ps 118: 19,20, 2Chr 20:21,22, Ac 16:25-34, Ac 4:23-31.*
When the King of glory comes in, the powers of darkness are broken, the captives of darkness are set free, and multitudes find salvation, righteousness and eternal life through believing in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. The vision of the Mountain of the Lord.

Before we began our pastoral ministry and ministry to the churches of Northland, New Zealand, the Lord gave us the following vision. Two prophetic ministries, Doug Maskell and Bill Haythornthwaite were praying for me. Bill saw this vision. There was a tall peaked mountain with a dense layer of cloud just below the summit.



Above the cloud layer it was bright sunlight but below the cloud it was very dark. At the base of the mountain in the darkness, there were multitudes of people. A person came out of the multitude, climbed the mountain and disappeared into the cloud, emerged and climbed to the top. When the person reached the summit they, (for I think the "person" represents a company of people) waved a banner or a flag. As they did this, the clouds broke up, the sun shone through on the multitude. The people went up the mountain of God to worship and serve Him, Deut33:19.

My understanding of the flag or banner is that it represents the meaning of the truth of *Ps 24:7-10*, explained under no 7 above. That is, the company of people who ascend the mountain, lift up the gates of praise, worship and thanksgiving and the King of Glory comes in. He is strong and mighty. He is mighty in battle. He is the Lord of the armies of heaven. When He comes He destroys the powers of darkness, releases the light of His salvation on to the multitudes shut up in darkness. They come to the mountain of God to receive His salvation and to serve Him for ever.

- D. Finally, to my amazement, sometime after receiving this vision, I discovered it written out in *Is 25:6-10*, which you can now read in God's Word.