

Eleutheros Newsletter

January 2021

News of Interest

Many who are reading this newsletter are glad that the old year has passed, and who can blame them for feeling that way!?

2020 was full of restrictions, fear of the impact of the corona virus, political wrangling, destruction of property, attacks on police, and unemployment at very high levels.

What will 2021 bring?

Obviously, we do not know what has planned, but we do know that He HAS a plan, because He is the sovereign ruler of all things!

As an old Gospel hymn said,

*I know not what the future holds,
But I know Who holds the future!*

King David wrote words that apply to our present situation:

Psalm 24

1 The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

To those who believe the Scriptures it is an obvious point that God is the Sovereign over His creation. After all, He is the One Who has existed forever, had (and *always* has) the power to do what He determines to do, and, having created this world, has rulership (*i.e.*, sovereignty) over all things! *The earth is the Lord's!* His rulership is not only over the land and the seas, but it extends to *they that dwell therein*.

While this important truth is clearly revealed here and adhered to by true believers, there are so many who prefer to “do their own thing” rather than recognize the fact that God is in control whether they submit to Him or not!

2 For He founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

This verse speaks of God's wisdom and power. The first portion of this reference can easily be explained by [Genesis 1:9](#): *And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.* This took great power, but God did not have to strain to accomplish it! The land rose up out of the water that had previously covered the entire earth (see [Genesis 1:2](#)).

The verse also should be understood to explain the *creativity* of God. He wanted water to be a major factor on this planet, and thus He had water all over everything for a short

time, but He also wanted the dry land to exist as a place for vegetation (see [Genesis 1:11-12](#)), animals ([Genesis 1:24-25](#)), and mankind ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)) to thrive.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place?

Having pondered the sovereignty, power, and creativity of God, David recognizes that God is far above all men (*Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?*). We are the creation; He is the Creator! We are mere humans; He is omnipotent! We simply cannot create anything as magnificent as what God did *in the beginning* ([Genesis 1:1](#)).

David also stands in awe of the holiness of God's presence (*His holy place*).

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

God honors those who honor Him! He recognizes and appreciates "clean hands" and a "pure heart"! He also reacts to "vanity" (emptiness) and lying (swearing deceitfully) in a negative way.

A question arises: how can simple and sinful man obtain clean hands and a pure heart?

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and the righteousness from the God of His salvation.

David answers this important question, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The blessing of getting close to God (as mentioned in verse 3) is "from the Lord" Himself! And righteousness is "from the God of his salvation."

This speaks of God's amazing grace! Man cannot please God by his works, his religion, his family relationships, his education, or any other way, but God provides the blessing and the righteousness that we so desperately need!

These things, of course, have been ultimately provided for us in our Savior Jesus Christ (see [John 14:6](#))!

6 This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

Israel is God's chosen people. The church is spiritually related to Israel because of faith (see Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews). The faith that Abraham demonstrated in his life and the faith that believers today manifest is a creation of God, not man's will (see [John 1:13](#); [Hebrews 12:2](#)).

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

David recognized that those who praise God will enjoy close fellowship with Him (*and the King of glory shall come in*).

8 *Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

The One Who produces faith, Who is the sovereign Creator, Who is very creative, Who is holy, Who blesses His people, Who fellowships closely with those who honor Him, is also a great Protector (*The Lord strong and mighty*)!

9 *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

David repeats the thoughts of verse 7. Perhaps this is the main point of this Psalm: God will draw close to those who praise Him!

We surely have many reasons to praise God! And he surely wants to bless His people!

10 *Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.*

Not only is God the ruler of all that is in this earth (see [24:1](#)); He is the Lord of all (“The Lord of hosts; the King of glory”). The reference is obvious: God rules over even the angels in heaven in a glorious way!

To summarize, we have endured a difficult year, but we serve a great God! He is powerful, holy, aware of our needs, and longs to have close fellowship with us! We do well to take our minds off of the circumstances we face and simply realize how great God really is!

We will continue thoughts from the Psalms in next month’s newsletter.