

Psalm 24:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

Analysis

The question 'Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?' addresses prerequisites for worship. The 'hill of the LORD' (Mount Zion) represents God's presence. This rhetorical question anticipates the answer in verse 4, establishing that worship requires moral qualification. From a Reformed perspective, this verse raises the problem that Psalm 15 also addresses: who is righteous enough to enter God's presence? The ultimate answer is Christ, who ascended as our representative and now brings us with Him (Eph. 2:6).

Historical Context

Pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem for festivals would sing this psalm. The question created anticipation and self-examination, preparing worshipers to enter God's presence with proper reverence and awareness of holiness requirements.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the question 'who shall ascend' teach about the holiness required for worship?
2. How does Christ's ascension enable your access to God's presence?

Interlinear Text

מַיִם יַעֲלֶה בְּרֵרֶת יְהוָה וְיָמִים
H4310 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD H4310 or who shall stand
H5927 H2022 H3068 H6965

בָּרוּךְ שָׁמָן וּמָלֵךְ
place in his holy
H4725 H6944

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 15:1 (Holy): LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Hebrews 12:28 (Parallel theme): Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Psalms 65:4 (Holy): Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Psalms 2:6 (Holy): Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Malachi 3:1 (References Lord): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Psalms 68:18 (References Lord): Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Leviticus 10:3 (Holy): Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

1 Chronicles 15:1 (Parallel theme): And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

John 20:17 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

John 13:36 (References Lord): Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.