

I. The Beauty of the Psalm

When you are looking for Christ... [Messianic psalms] (e.g., Psalm 2, 22, 45, 69, 89, 110)

We ascribe to God His worth by trusting and loving the Lord Jesus Christ predicted in the Psalter. The Messianic psalms focus largely on Jesus' kingly role, as the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic covenant (the royal psalms—2, 45, 89, 110). But there are also indications of the suffering/redemptive work that brings His kingdom into realization (16, 22, 69).

- A. Its brevity. (12 short verses)
- B. Its connectivity.
 - 1. The first two verses of each psalm usually provide a summary of the content in the individual psalm.
 - 2. The first two books (Psalm 1 & 2) provide a summary of the content of the entire book of Psalms. *Psalm 1 & 2 are book-ended by the word "blessed."* (Psalm 1:1 & 2:12)
 - a. Psalm 1 speaks of the blessing of following God.
 - b. Psalm 2 speaks of the blessing of trusting God.
 - c. Both Psalms speak of the danger of defying God. (Psalm 1:4-6 & 2:10-12)
- C. Its clarity.
 - 1. Four separate but equal sections of three verses.
 - a. **The Nations threaten the King. (1-3)**
 - b. **The Lord supports the King. (4-6)**
 - c. **The Son defends his position and commission as king. (7-9)**
 - d. **The Nations decide how to respond to the King. (10-12)**
 - 2. Each section employs poetical parallelism.¹
 - a. **Synonymous:** the second line repeats much the same idea as the first line using similar terminology. (Psalm 2:4)
 - b. **Developmental:** the second line develops further the idea of the first. (Psalm 121:3)
 - c. **Illustrative:** Line A conveys the idea and line B illustrates it with an example or a symbol. (Psalm 140:7)
 - d. **Contrastive:** Employs the use of contrast, in that line B is contrasted with line A. (Psalm 1:6)
 - e. **Formal:** a "miscellaneous" category to catch the remaining types of parallelism. (Psalm 2:6)

¹ *Survey of the OT* by Paul N. Benware

II. The Mystery of the Psalm

A. Unknown authorship.

David and specific events in his life appear in the editorial superscripts to seventy-three psalms. But the names Asaph (12x), sons of Korah (12x), Solomon (2x), Ethan the Ezrahite (1x), Heman the Ezrahite (1x), and even Moses (1x) also surface. **Many psalms have no author, timeframe, or setting identified.** Psalm 137 reflects the post-exilic period, suggesting that the collection was compiled in its present form for use in the Second Temple.

A. *Unknown authorship.*

B. Unclear recipient.

- Both faced opposition (1-3)
- Both experienced protection (4-6)
- Both received confirmation (7-9)
- Both deserve total submission (10-12)

1. A defense of the present king - David.

- a. A reference to “Zion” the city of David (6; 2 Samuel 5:7)
- b. An easy explanation of the phrase “today I have begotten you...” (7b) – referring to the birth of David as the son of Jesse (I Samuel 17:12) or the anointing of David as the 2nd king in Israel (I Samuel 16:6-13)
- c. An allusion to the Davidic Covenant (8-9; 2 Samuel 7; I Chron 17:11-14; 2 Chron. 6:16)

2. A description of the future king - Jesus.²

- a. The use of the word “Messiah” in Hebrew and “Christ” in Greek (Ps. 2:2; Acts 10:38).
- b. Peter preached that Christ’s cross was the epitome of the nations’ rage (Ps. 2:1; Acts 4:25-27).
- c. The apostles preached the gospel from this psalm. The author of Hebrews explained that Christ was this “Son” whom God sent into the world – the only Son who could truly fulfill the promises to David (Ps. 2:7; Heb. 1:5)
- d. Paul revealed that Christ’s coronation occurred after His resurrection (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:4).
- e. John showed that salvation or damnation depends on one’s relationship to the Son (Ps. 2:12a; John 3:36).
- f. Ephesians calls Christians to live courageously in the face of worldwide spiritual rebellion because Christ is actively ruling over all of reality (Ps. 2:12b; Eph. 1:20-22).
- g. The prophecy of worldwide rule demands a King with infinitely greater powers than David, but which accords with God’s promise to David of an eternal and worldwide kingdom established by his descendant (2 Sam. 7:12-14; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).

² Gospel Transformation Study Bible, page 656.

- h. *A reference to “Zion” the city of David and the capital city during the Millennial Kingdom with Christ reigning. (6; Revelation 14; Isaiah 52:1; 60:14)*
- i. *A direct connection between the phrase “today I have begotten you...” (7b) and the resurrection of Jesus from the grave (Acts 13:32ff). It cannot refer to the beginning of Jesus (Hebrews 13:8).*
 - (1. *An picture of the RESURRECTION OF JESUS (7 – “You are my Son. Today I have begotten you...”)*
 - (2. *A reference to the EXALTATION OF JESUS (8 – “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.”)*
 - (3. *A connection to the RETURN OF JESUS (9 – “You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”)*

III. The Theology of the Psalm

- A. God is not surprised by unbelievers. (1-3)
 - 1. What makes you so arrogant? (1)
 - 2. What makes you so ignorant? (2)
 - 3. What makes you so belligerent? (3)

Apply: Expect unbelievers to push a secular agenda.

- Mocking God.
- Contradicting God.
- Rejecting God

He is not surprised by unbelievers. (1-3)

- B. God is not threatened by unbelievers. (4-6)
 - 1. He laughs. (4)
 - 2. He speaks. (5)
 - 3. He acts. (6)

Apply: Remain committed to a biblical worldview.

- Believe and receive the Gospel.
- Walk in the Spirit.
- Connect with a local church.
 - Membership in a local church
 - Involvement in the church
 - Partnership with the church
- Practice purity in your thoughts and actions as a teen or adult.
- Define marriage as a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman.
- Celebrate the expansion of families through birth or adoption.
- Speak the truth in love about the LGBTQ Agenda.
- Defend the unborn child.

He is not threatened by unbelievers. (4-6)

- C. God is not frustrated or forgetful of anyone. (The sin of the nation in the premature selection of a king. The failure of Saul. The absence of David when Samuel was searching. The blessing extended to David after his failure.) – He will accomplish His plan for His glory to be revealed among the nations.. - A defense of the present king - David. And the provision of King Jesus (7-9)

Apply: Reflect on God’s sovereignty when you feel forgotten or marginalized by those closest to you. (the shepherd boy, David before he became king... Jesus Christ, the perfect man rejected by all of his followers...)

- He selected, protected, and provided for David. He did the same for Jesus. Trust Him to do the same for you.

He is not frustrated by or forgetful of anyone. (7-9)

- D. God is not unreachable by anyone. – offering an invitation for all to repent and believe. (10-12)
1. Vs. 10 (1-3) – Think before you mock the Son.
- “Be wise and warned...”
 2. Vs. 11 (4-6) – Reflect on who appointed the Son.
- “Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling”
 3. Vs. 12 (7-9) – Humble yourself and receive the Son.
- “kiss the Son and take refuge in Him.”

Apply: Submit to the King.

- Call out to Him and repent of your sin.
- Trust Him to provide for your needs.

He is not unreachable by anyone. (10-12)