

November 15, 2020 – Prophecy in the Psalms

As Christians, God wants us to be forward looking. This doesn't mean we are not to live in the present – of course we should always live in the present, but we are to live in the present with an eye to the future, with the future in view. Many people live their lives in view of the past. That is, they think about the past way too much, whether that relates to negative and difficult things that have taken place, or whether that relates to positive and encouraging things that have taken place.

- My point is that you don't want to be looking backward, you don't want to be so focused on the past that it keeps you from living rightly in the present.

And the key to living rightly in the present is to live your life in light of the future.

And living today in view of the future means that you need to understand prophecy, for prophecy is that part of God's word that tells you what God wants you to know about the future, a future that He has already planned out, and is now bringing to pass. And there are a lot of prophecy passages in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Now the Old Testament focuses on prophecies about the Jewish people, but many of these prophecies relate to Christians too, for we see that God's working with the Jews and the Christians converges and comes together at the end of this present church age.

Psalm 37:11 – *“The humble will inherit the land.”* Matt. 5:5 – *“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”* This promise in Ps. 37 for the Jews is the same as this promise in Matt. 5 for the Christians. This means that all believers, whether they are

from Old Testament times, or from the church age, will be together inheriting the earth.

- Heb. 11:39 – This says that these OT saints did not receive what God had promised them.

Vs. 13. Vs. 40 – Now the word *“us”* is referring to Christians from this church age, and the word *“they”* is referring to Jewish believers who were living in OT times. This word perfection also means completion. And so what vs 40 is saying is that Christians will see the completion or fulfillment of God's promises when the OT believers see the completion or fulfillment of God's promises, and this takes place in the millennial kingdom. And so, Christians will be blessed in the same way OT believers will be blessed. Gen. 12:1-3

The reason I say this is because it affects how we understand prophecy, both OT and NT prophecies. Now many NT prophecies tell us what will happen before Christ comes back, what happens when He comes back, and what happens right after He comes back. Now some OT prophecies talk about Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> coming, but most OT prophecies focus on what will happen at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, and particularly what happens after He comes, that is, what takes place during the millennial kingdom age, an age that is for both believers from the OT and believers from the church age.

- What I am saying then is that most OT prophecy passages describe the future of Christians. And that's why Christians need to understand OT prophecies.

With that being said, let's look at a number of prophecy passages from the Psalms. And we'll see that there is a whole lot said about prophecy in the book of Psalms.

- Psalm 2. We have looked at this before, but let me summarize what it is saying. It tells us how the nations, and the unbelieving rulers and people of the world are opposed to God and don't want Him to rule over them. But we see that God has already appointed His Son, Jesus Christ to be the ruler of this world, and that God will give to Christ the nations of this world as His inheritance. And this will take place in the future after Christ judges all the nations, and at that time when the kingdom of the world becomes Christ's kingdom. Rev. 11:15

Psalm 8:4-9. We are made a little lower than God, and have been crowned with glory and majesty. Now this could be speaking about all people, but I believe it is talking about believers and Christians. And it says we are made to rule over this world that God has made. Now Adam and Eve, before they sinned, were doing this perfectly.

- And to some degree, we are ruling now, but not perfectly so. It won't be until the millennial kingdom that we will be perfectly reigning upon the earth. Rev 5:10

Psalm 9:5-8. God is judging the nations, and He's judged nations in the past, but this relates to the future for it says their name will be blotted out forever, and that *"the enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins."* And this hasn't happened yet. And we read that *"the Lord abides forever."* Clearly, this is prophetic, about what will take place in the future.

- Psalm 9:17-18. The wicked will go to Sheol, the abode of the dead, what we also call hell.

Psalm 11:3-7. I believe this is prophetic. The foundations have been destroyed before, but in the end times it will be worse than ever. Then it says that *"upon the wicked He will reign snares; fire and brimstone be the portion of their cup."* This, I believe is referring to when unbelievers will be punished in hell. Rev. 14:9-11

- But *"the upright will behold His face,"* which means that believers will literally see Jesus Christ - we will be with Him and dwell in His presence forever. 1 Thess. 5:9-10

Psalm 16:10-11. This prophecy is about Christ, that He didn't die and stay dead and decay, but that He was raised from the dead, and that He has a future, a purpose, a close relationship with God, and that He will forever experience God's pleasures and blessings. This relates to us for we are Christ's brothers and sisters, and as it says in Rom. 8 are *"fellow heirs with Christ."* That means we too will defeat death, will live forever, will have a relationship with God, and share in Christ's inheritance & be blessed with pleasures forever.

Psalm 22. This is a 1<sup>st</sup> coming, 2<sup>nd</sup> coming Psalm. But today we're focusing on Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Vss. 27-31. We know this is about the future for two main reasons:

1. It says, "*all the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord*" and "*all the families of the nations will worship before You.*" This hasn't happened yet, but it will.
2. It says, "*the kingdom is the Lords,*" and right now the kingdom is Satan's, but in the future, it will be Christ's kingdom. And it says, "*He rules over the nations,*" which is what Christ will do in the future during the millennial kingdom.

Psalm 29:1-2. This talks about the power of the Lord and the glory of the Lord and how we are to worship the Lord on this earth. Vss. 10-11. Here we see that the Lord will be King forever, and that He will give us strength and peace, and yes, this is true to some degree now, but the fulfillment of this promise will be seen in the ages to come.

Psalm 33:10-12. It is true that God will nullify the plans of the heathen nations, but His plans for Israel will stand and be fulfilled. And the nation of Israel will be Christ's inheritance, and will be most blessed, and as Christians, we will share in that inheritance.

Psalm 37. I want to point out two main themes that we see in this chapter. First, God will punish the sinful, the evil, the wicked people. Vss. 9-10, 14-15, 17, 20, 35-36, 38. - Second, God will bless the righteous, the humble. Vss. 6, 9, 11, 18, 22, 27-29, 34. Clearly these blessings for the righteous are speaking of the future, for both the believers from the OT times and for those who are church age Christians.

Psalm 45:1-6, 16-17. This is about the King, about Christ, how He will gird His sword and be victorious over the enemy, and how He will have a righteous kingdom, and will reign forever. And then we, as believers, will give thanks to this King forever.

Psalm 46. This talks about wars and earthquakes, and to some degrees these things have happened before. But it also talks about the works of the Lord, referring to the fact that God will bring them to an end, for it says, "*He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth,*" and this has not happened yet, but it will.

- Vs 10. And this is what we are to do – we are to "*cease striving*", we are to be still and trust God. And we are to know that God "*will be exalted among the nations... will be exalted in the earth.*" And this is God's promise to us about what will be happening in the millennial kingdom, which leads us to the next Psalm.

Psalm 47 – This whole chapter talks about the future, and how Christ will be the King over this earth. Vss. 1-8. And Christ as King is to be feared, and be praised, and we are to sing to Him, and shout to Him. And we are to know that He'll subdue the nations, and the Jewish believers will inherit the nations, and Christians will too. - 1 Cor. 15:25, in speaking of the millennial kingdom says, "*Christ must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet,*" referring then to these nations in Psalm 47.

Psalm 48:1-5. One of the primary themes of this Psalm is the "*city of God*", what is also called "*Mount Zion.*" And we are to praise the Lord - but we see that the kings of other nations are afraid, are terrified. Indeed, God will be subduing these enemy nations that we read about here, and what this will look like, I don't know. God doesn't tell us all the details of the future, and how things will happen. - Vss. 9-10. We do know that believers will be thinking about, meditating on God's love, on the love He has for us, and that the whole earth will be praising the Lord, for we will be hearing about His righteous judgments. Psalm 67:3-4. Ph. 2:9-11

Psalm 57:7-11. I love this prayer to God, and it should be our prayer. We should tell God that we will sing to Him, give thanks to Him and praise Him among the nations. And we should be praying for God's glory to be over all the earth. Matt 6:9-10 - This is so encouraging for we are going to see Christ being exalted, and we will be part of this worldwide assembly worshiping Him during the millennial kingdom. Ps. 96:1, 9

Psalm 65. This is a great Psalm that speaks of God's blessing upon man and this earth. And what is said here is not happening now, and so we know this is about the future. - We read about Zion, and this is speaking of Jerusalem, and Jesus our King will be there and He will be feared and praised. - He will forgive those unbelievers who want to be forgiven of their sins. Psalm 87 - He will bless and satisfy people who come to Him, and will show them His goodness. - We read that He is the trust, the One people all over the world are looking to. - And we see His power over nature. We saw this when Jesus calmed the seas when the disciples were in the boat, but in the millennial kingdom we will see His power over nature like never before. We will see a beautiful world like never before. We will see Christ make this world very productive agriculturally like never before. Vss. 11-13 - Indeed, God has wonderful plans for us in the age to come, in the kingdom age.