

04-30-2017

Message: Psalms of the Messiah - The Exaltation of Christ as God's Priest/King Forever

Text: Psalm 110

Introduction

- A. Since what is known as "Holy Week" this year fell in the month of April, it seemed good to hear from God through several Spirit-inspired Messianic Psalms, which pointed forward to the suffering, death, resurrection, and exaltation of God's divine Son, the Lord Jesus Messiah or Christ.
1. April 2nd, though technically not a Messianic psalm, we saw in Psalm 1 the church, the assembly of the righteous for which Christ died.
 2. April 9th in Psalm 118 we saw the willingness of Christ to suffer and offer Himself as our Passover sacrifice.
 3. April 16th in Psalm 16 we saw the resurrection joy set before the Lord that enabled Him to endure the cross for us.
 4. April 23rd in Psalm 2 we saw the exaltation of Jesus as Lord and Messiah (King), given all authority in heaven and earth to rule and inherit the nations.
 5. Now on April 30th, we see Psalm 110 speak prophetically of Jesus exalted, not only as God's King, but also as God's Priest over God's household forever.
- B. As we work through this psalm, think about how God would have you and I respond to His revealing this truth to us.

I. David's Lord, God's Messiah, is Jesus.

- A. By way of reminder, the Hebrew word "mashiach," transliterated into the English "messiah," means "anointed one," referring to the Israelite practice of enthroning their kings by anointing them with olive oil. "Mashiach" is translated by the Greek "christos" (E.g., Psalm 2:2 LXX), which is transliterated into English as "Christ."

Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His **Anointed** (Heb: mashiach, Gk: christos), saying,

1. Around 1050 BC Saul from the tribe of Benjamin was anointed as Israel's first king, first messiah.

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD **anointed** (mashach) you a ruler over His inheritance?"

1 Samuel 26:23 "... the LORD delivered you into *my* hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S **anointed** (mashiach).

2. But because of Saul's disobedience to the Word of the Lord, God rejected Saul and gave

his throne to David, promising David's throne would endure forever, unlike Saul's. And so David's descendants succeeded him as "messiah" until the Babylonian invasion and deportation, after which the Jews looked for the promise of a messiah descended from David to reestablish David's throne.

2 Samuel 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; **your throne shall be established forever.**"¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and all this vision, **so Nathan spoke to David.**

- B. But that this promised Messiah would be no mere mortal descended from David appears to be lost on the Jewish leaders (Pharisees) of Jesus's day. Jesus exposes their flawed understanding using Psalm 110.

Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David. **The LORD (Yahweh)** says to **my Lord (Adoni)**: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Matthew 22:41 ... Jesus asked them a question:⁴² "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "*The son of David.*"⁴³ He said to them, "Then **how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,'** saying,⁴⁴ 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET "'?⁴⁵ **"If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"**⁴⁶ No one was able to answer Him a word

- C. God reveals through a host of Scriptures that Psalm 110 is referring to Jesus as David's Lord and God's divine Messiah.

Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,"³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

Hebrews 1:1 God, ...² in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. **When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. ...¹³ But **to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET "'?**

II. God will give His King, Jesus, victory over all His enemies.

Psalm 110:1 ... "Sit at My right hand until **I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.**"² **The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule**

in the midst of Your enemies."³ Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You *as* the dew. ...⁵ The Lord is at Your right hand; **He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.**⁶ He will judge among the nations, He will fill *them* with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.⁷ **He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.**

- A. 110:1 The metaphor of enemies under Christ's feet like a footstool denotes complete subjugation, even as victorious kings put their foot on the necks of vanquished kings.

Joshua 10:24 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came near and put their feet on their necks.

- B. 110:2 Yahweh will extend His Son's authority (scepter) over all His enemies - none will escape His reach.

- C. 110:3 The Son's people, on the other hand, will not need to be forced into subjugation, for they will freely volunteer with the renewed strength and energy that the Lord supplies to those who wait on Him (Isa. 43:31).

- D. 110:5-6 Christ will shatter, destroy, and judge the nations who are in opposition to Him.

- E. 110:7 Christ will lift up His head in victory!

- F. Application: How shall we respond to God's divine Messiah, Jesus?

1. Don't drift,, but keep seeking and pursuing a Christ-conforming relationship with Him. This world produces a current that pulls us away from Christ. Like a kayaker that starts drifting when he stops paddling upstream, we drift away from Christ when we stop actively pursuing Him.

Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? ...

2:1 For this reason **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift** away.

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

2. Don't be afraid of the enemies of Christ, including death. God will defeat them all under Christ's feet.

Joshua 10:24 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men

of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "**Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.**" So they came near and put their feet on their necks.²⁵ Joshua then said to them, "**Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.**"

1 Corinthians 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.²⁶
The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

3. Volunteer freely to obey Christ, grow in Christ, serve Christ in the strength He promises to supply. Don't be among those who sit back, who do not risk, invest, and expend themselves for His sake. The volunteering people of God spoken of here echo those of God's people who volunteered to join Deborah and Barak in the fight against the Canannite king Laban in the Jezreel Valley. After God gave them the victory, Deborah and Barak sang ...

Psalms 110:3 Your people will **volunteer freely** in the day of Your power;

Judges 5:2 "That the leaders led in Israel, That **the people volunteered**, Bless the LORD! ...⁹ "**My heart goes out to** the commanders of Israel, **the volunteers among the people**; Bless the LORD! ...¹³ ... The people of the LORD came down to me as warriors.¹⁴ "From Ephraim ..., following you, Benjamin, with your peoples; From Machir commanders came down, and from Zebulun those who wield the staff of office.¹⁵ "And the princes of Issachar *were* with Deborah; As *was* Issachar, so *was* Barak; Into the valley they rushed at his heels;

Among the divisions of Reuben *there were* great resolves of heart.¹⁶ "**Why did you sit among the sheepfolds**, to hear the piping for the flocks? **Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart.**¹⁷ "**Gilead remained across the Jordan**; And **why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore**, ...¹⁸ "**Zebulun was a people who despised their lives even to death, and Naphtali also**

III. In exalting Jesus to His right hand, God has united His kingdom's monarchy and priesthood forever in His divine Son Jesus!

Psalms 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." ..⁴ **The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."**

- A. Under the Old Covenant, there was commanded a separation between Israel's monarchy and priesthood. When king Uzziah became proud and took upon himself priestly honor, God struck him with leprosy.

2 Chronicles 26:18 They opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful and

will have no honor from the LORD God." ¹⁹ But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense. ²⁰ Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he *was* leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him. ²¹ King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, being a leper, for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son *was* over the king's house judging the people of the land.

- B. But now since Jesus has put into effect God's promised New Covenant, God has made a change in the priesthood, exalting Christ into His very presence as High Priest forever.

Hebrews 5:4 And **no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God**, even as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; ⁶ **just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."**

- C. Christ was resurrected and exalted to enter the holy presence of God with His own blood for the sins of His people once for all.

Hebrews 9:11 But when **Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come**, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.

- D. Christ entered as it were within the veil to the holy of holies, the very presence of God, as a forerunner for us, meaning we will in Christ inherit the very presence and glory of God.

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which **enters within the veil,** ²⁰ **where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us**, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- E. The priest-king Melchizedek appeared in the Genesis record without a genealogy, without mention of his birth or death, providing a symbol of the eternal Son of God, who will live forever as God's High Priest, and therefore, able to intercede and save us forever.

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, ... ³ Without father, without mother, **without genealogy**, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **made like the Son of God**, he remains a priest perpetually.

Hebrews 7:23 The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because

they were prevented by death from continuing,²⁴ **but Jesus**, on the other hand, **because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.**²⁵ **Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

Romans 8:34 who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus** is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who **is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

F. Application: How shall we respond to God's divine, High Priest Jesus?

1. Approach with confidence God's very throne of grace through the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since **we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,**²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,²¹ and **since we have a great priest over the house of God,**²² **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. Come to our sympathetic High Priest at God's throne of grace to receive mercy and help when we feel weak and tempted to drift away.

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.**¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.¹⁶ Therefore **let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

3. Since Jesus entered the holy presence of God as our forerunner, since we are fellow heirs of God with Christ, let us exalt/rejoice in the hope of inheriting the glory of God! And let that hope anchor our souls in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² ...; and **we exult in hope of the glory of God.**

Hebrews 6:19 **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul,** a *hope* both sure and steadfast and **one which enters within the veil,**²⁰ **where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us,** having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.