

Ascension and Pentecost Psalm 68; Ephesians 4:7-16

Christ, the Divine Warrior-King, ascended victoriously over all enemies and graces His Church for service, unity, maturity, stability, and love.

- 1) Christ, the Divine Warrior-King, ascended victoriously over all enemies (Psalm 68:1-27).
 - a) Psalm 68:1-14 recalls God's redemption of Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness, showing God to be a Warrior-King and a Father-King.
 - i) God, the Warrior King scatters His enemies.
 - ii) God, the Father-King settles His people.
 - b) His victory is marked by His victorious ascension from Sinai to the Mountain of God (Zion), His Sanctuary/Palace (Psalm 68:15-18, 24-27).
 - c) Psalm 68:28-35 prays for the Lord to act once again as He did before, looking forward to a final victory that would bring all kingdoms of the earth to worship Him.
 - d) Paul understands the ascension of Christ to be the answer to this prayer (Eph. 4:8-10).
- 2) Christ graces His Church for service, unity, maturity, stability, and love.
 - a) Psalm 68 shows how God's people enjoy the spoils of His victories.
 - b) In the New Covenant, Christ bestows the rewards of His victory on His people (Eph. 4: 8, 11-16), the gift of His Word & Spirit (Acts 2:32-33; Eph. 4:3-4). These gifts produce:
 - i) Service (v. 12)—liturgical service of worship
 - ii) Unity (v. 13)
 - iii) Maturity (v. 13)
 - iv) Stability (v. 14)
 - v) Love (vv. 15-16)

The reign of the Ascended Christ is experienced now through His Word and Spirit. Are you enjoying the fullness of Christ in all things (v. 10)?