

Psalms of the Messiah

Psalm 110 – From the Right Hand of God the Father

Introduction – In Psalm 2 we learned that Christ is the rightful heir to all the nations as of the time of His resurrection. In Psalm 22 we learned that the same crucified Christ is now exalted and that all the nations will turn to Him. In Psalm 72 we learned that we should pray now for this Son of David to manifest His rule as we are taught in the Lord's Prayer. Finally, in Psalm 110, we are shown the extent and purpose of the 'church age' in which we live. The 'Last Days Madness' that has surrounded the modern evangelical church shows no sign of slowing down. We continue to scan the newspapers for 'signs of the times'. But this psalm clearly teaches where Jesus is right now, what He is accomplishing there, and when He will leave that place.

"Jehovah to my Lord has said..." (vv1-2) – The Psalter is helpful in translation here. There are two Hebrew words being used; Yahweh and Adonai. At the right hand of God, Jesus reigns.

Heavenly Conversation – Condescending to us again, God reveals to us that it had been determined long before Jesus came that He would rule by saving the world. The New Testament is not a story of God changing His ways of dealing with the world, but a story of fulfilling what He had always been promising.

A King from Another Line (Matt 22:41-46) – While the Son of David would come, in some sense from the line of David, clearly in another sense, He would be much greater than David. He would be greater than all of the angels (Heb 1:13). And so would His reign. It is declared that all of His enemies will be put down while He reigns at the right hand of God. This is what Paul describes in 1 Cor 15:24-28 as well.

Enemies – Have you noticed, since returning to singing the psalms, how often we are singing about God's enemies, the church's enemies, and God's victory over them? We had lost this in most of our modern hymns and choruses, which was fine with the eschatology of the day.

The Rod of Your Strength – Jesus stays in heaven (Matt 26:64, Dan 7:13) while His rod goes forth over all the earth (Matt 28:18-20). *"Moses' rod brought water out of the flinty rock, and the gospel of Jesus soon causes repentance to flow in rivers from the once hardened heart of man."* – Spurgeon. And that is what the next verse describes.

"A willing people in Thy day..." (v3) – A cascade of word-pictures describes the conversion of many 'in the day of Your power'. Like dew, their appearance seems almost miraculous. How did the apostles respond when "three thousand souls were added that day"? (Acts 2:41 – right after *this very psalm* was preached). "Your youth" probably pictures the perpetual enfolding of new generations of volunteers to serve the King. This is an assembling of an army, dressed in 'the beauties of holiness' for service. Just as we have lost and must recover a biblical understanding of God's enemies, so we must recover a biblical understanding of this assembly. We have not gathered to hear a lecture or an inspirational talk. We have gathered at His command in the day of His power to put down strongholds as we worship in holiness.

Jesus Christ, the Priest-King (v4) – He sits at the right hand of God the Father, not only reigning as Savior, but as our Intercessor as well (Rom 8:34, Heb 10:11-14). He does so as the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is described in detail in and around Hebrews 7. He reigns 'redemptively', meaning that He is a King who rules and overturns His enemies by making them His willing servants through a perfect atonement offered by Himself as a perfect sacrifice and through a perfect High Priest.

Smiting Kings, Judging Nations (vv 5-7) – In verses 5-6 we have a definitive picture of the enthroned King going forth in world conquest. There are none who can stand in His way. Not the greatest kings, not the strongest nations, not the devil himself – even his head will be crushed. Where is the spirit of meekness and gentleness? A good Shepherd is gentle and caring over His flock, and fierce in jealous protection over them from thieves and wolves. Verse 7 describes this warrior as unhindered in His work, focused and constantly refreshed. It is the Lord's pleasure to bring salvation to the world.

Conclusion – There is an optimistic view of the history and future of the church, to be proclaimed even during times of declensions and trials, as we face today. These psalms teach us that the victorious reign began from the time of the resurrection of Christ and is continuing. He will remain at the right hand of the Father until all of His enemies are put down. But He is here in the work of His Holy Spirit, in the power of the preached Word, and in His faithful response to the Lord's Prayer offered in His name. And the effectiveness of these graces will grow over the centuries ahead of us.

Enemies of God take notice. He will crush your rebellion. But because of the glorious truth in this psalm – *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"* – Heb 7:25