

Songs of the Kingdom 4 – Psalm 110

Psalm 110 Overview

- Shows us His role as both King and Priest
- This Psalm was written about 1000 years before Jesus
- Written by King David
- It's a short Psalm (only 7 verses) but packed full of depth
- Psalm 110 is quoted in NT more than any other OT chapter
 - Quoted 9 times in NT
 - Quoted by Jesus Himself
 - Every NT statement of Jesus being seated at the right hand of God is taken from this Psalm

Psalm 110:1 - The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

- This verse alone is quoted 5 times in NT (Matt 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Heb 1:13)
- "The LORD says to my Lord..."
 - "LORD" (all caps) = Yahweh = Triune God
 - "Lord" = adonai = master / lord... this word is sometimes used for God and sometimes for men (ie. a common way a slave would refer to his human master was "adonai")
 - Early on, Jews understood this master to be the Messiah
- "sit at my right hand..."
 - He's seated on a throne, taking authority
 - He's at God's right hand, a place of co-regency
- "until I make your enemies your footstool"
 - The Messiah is told to come and reign until His enemies are defeated
 - Key point: Jesus is reigning while His enemies still exist
 - This Psalm isn't about some future day when all Jesus' enemies are destroyed but about Him reigning right now
 - "footstool" = in Hebrew, it means a stool to set your feet on
 - 1) Submission: An aspect of making your enemies your footstool means they are put in submission under you
 - Isaiah 66:1 – Heaven is God's throne and the earth is His footstool
 - Lamentations 2:1 – Refers to Israel as God's footstool, in submission under him
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25-28 - 25 For He [Jesus] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.
 - 2) Worship: Another aspect of being made God's footstool concerns worship
 - Psalm 99:5, Psalm 132:7 – Both talk about worshiping at God's footstool
 - 1 Chronicles 28:2 – Solomon calls the Temple, a place to worship God, His footstool
 - The process by which all God's enemies will be brought into submission to Him will be one of the greatest sources of worship the world has ever seen
 - Proverbs 11:10 - When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.
- Summary
 - Jesus is already reigning, and He is already making His enemies His footstool, bringing them to a place of submission and worship

- Every person will submit to Jesus, but not all will surrender willingly
- Philippians 2:9-11 - 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Psalm 22:27 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

Psalm 110:2 - The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

- “Zion” = the name of a mountain Jerusalem was built upon
 - Sometimes “Zion” means the mountain itself
 - Sometimes “Zion” means the city of Jerusalem
 - Sometimes “Zion” refers to the people of God (Isaiah 51:16 – “say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”)
 - In NT, “Zion” is used rarely, but it always refers to the church
 - Hebrews 12:22 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering
- “The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.”
 - So out of Zion, the Church, comes the Messiah’s scepter (his rule, his dominion, his kingdom)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20 - ...we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us...
- “Rule in the midst of your enemies”
 - This can’t be referring to when Jesus returns, because then He won’t have any enemies to rule in the midst of.
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 – ...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.
- If Jesus is ruling now, where is His kingdom?
 - In one sense... His kingdom is everywhere and He’s ruler over all, because He has the name above every other name (Phil 2:9, Eph 1:21)
 - In another sense... His kingdom is Zion, the people of God, and His rule is spreading as His ambassadors reach out to establish His authority
 - His Kingdom is ruling and operating in the midst of the alternative, demonic kingdoms of this world
 - Luke 17:20-21 - 20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, 21 nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”
 - In Matthew 13, Jesus described the Kingdom of God as...
 - A Mustard Seed planted in a field of dirt, surrounded by other plants (Matthew 13:31)
 - A Treasure hidden in a field and covered up (Matthew 13:44)
 - Yeast that a woman kneaded into a lump of dough (Matthew 13:33 - ...leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened)
 - A Field With Both Wheat and Weeds, which grow up together until the end, when the weeds are torn out and burned in fire (Matthew 13:24-30)

Psalm 110:3 - Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

- Context
 - Vs. 1-2: deal with Jesus ruling in the midst of His enemies
 - Vs. 5-7: talk about battle, judgment, Jesus pursuing His enemies
- “Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power...”
 - “power” = heleka = almost always related to military power
- “...in holy garments...”
 - Lit. Hebrew says “in the splendors of holiness”... this phrase sometimes refers to glorious armor
- “...from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.”
 - “youth” = in Hebrew, it means “young people,” not referring to the Messiah’s youthfulness
 - NIV: Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb.
 - What Does it Mean to Assemble Like the Dew?
 - This Messiah’s army will assemble just as silently, effortlessly, and spontaneously as the dew in the morning
 - The dew just appears, though you don’t see it’s coming or really know how or when exactly it appeared or where it came from
 - The dew covers everything on the ground
 - The dew comes and there’s nothing you can do to stop it
- This is exactly what happened with Jesus and His Kingdom.

Psalm 110:4 - The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

- This verse is quoted frequently in Hebrews (referred to 5 times in Heb 5-7)
- Only place in Psalms where Messiah is referred to as a Priest
- “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind...”
 - The Messiah is sworn in as a priest, by none other than Yahweh himself
 - Hebrews 7:20-21 – OT priests became priests without an oath
 - God won’t change his mind on this priesthood because there will never be a reason to ever change his mind
 - 1 Samuel 2:27-36 – God promised Eli that he and his sons would always be priests, but now because of their wickedness, He revokes that promise.
- “...You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”
 - Melchizedek had only ever been mentioned 1 other time in Bible (Gen 14)
 - Who Was Melchizedek?
 - Genesis 14 - Abraham defeated five kings in order to rescue his nephew Lot. Afterwards, Melchizedek served him bread and wine and blessed him, and Abraham tithed to him.
 - Melchizedek has no genealogy, so we don’t know where he came from (The writer of Hebrews notes that he effectively has no beginning or end)
 - “Melchizedek” = in Heb. lit. “king of righteousness”
 - He is called the “king of Salem” (“salem” = Heb. peace (shalom)... So Melchizedek is a prince of peace)
 - He is called a “priest of the Most High God” = This is odd, because at this time, there was not yet a religion of the Most High God, and therefore no priesthood of the Most High God... not for another ~500 years
 - There are many who teach that Melchizedek was a “theophany,” an appearance of God in the flesh on the earth.
 - The Order of Melchizedek
 - As far as the Jewish people knew, the only legitimate priests of God were in the Order of Levi (Levitical Priests). If you’re not a Levite, you can’t be a priest.

- As far as they knew, there was no priestly order of Melchizedek
- When Jesus came, He was a Great High Priest, but not of the Levitical Order... a priest of the Order of Melchizedek.

Psalm 110:5-7 - 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. 6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. 7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

- Two Options
 - 1) Could refer to the future coming Judgment Day, when Jesus physically returns and defeats His enemies
 - 2) Could refer to the ongoing spiritual warfare happening now as Jesus' kingdom advances
 - This is probably the correct view, based on vs. 7
- Vs. 7 - He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.
 - Why will the Messiah lift up His head in victory? Because "he will drink from the brook by the way"
 - When you're in a relentless, ongoing pursuit of an enemy, you don't have time to stop, find a well, and get a drink if you're thirsty. Instead, you have to drink from the brook by the way.
 - Jesus will be victorious against His enemies because He is pursuing them relentlessly in continuous, prolonged warfare
 - At the 2nd Coming, there won't be any need for Jesus to drink from the brook by the way. It's gonna be instantaneous victory.
 - These verses are, then, most likely about the ongoing spiritual warfare happening now as His kingdom advances.
- Vs. 5-6 - "...he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath... he will execute judgment among the nations... he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth."
 - Jesus is even now, as He conducts ongoing warfare against the enemy, destroying demonic powers and principalities

One Main Truth from the Songs of the Kingdom: Though we await Jesus' return one day, He even now already reigns as King