

## Psalm 110 - The Rest of the Story

Sign Title: the rest of the story

December 24, 2011

It is great to have you at our Christmas Eve worship service. My name is Kurt, and I am one of the pastors. This Christmas we did something a little something different. Instead of studying Jesus' birth from the Gospels, we are studying Jesus from the Old Testament book of Psalms. While it sounds strange to learn about Jesus from the Old Testament, we have learned the book of Psalms is dripping with information on Jesus. The writers of the New Testament knew that, that is why they quoted the book of Psalms more than any other.

Tonight we study Psalm 110. Why are we studying this Psalm? Psalm 110 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament from the book of Psalms. Psalm 110 is also the most quoted chapter of the entire Old Testament in the New Testament. The first verse of the Psalm 110 is quoted 24 times by New Testament writers. Why did the early church and the writers of Scripture quote this so frequently? It is packed with information about Jesus. That is why we are studying it tonight.

As I studied the Psalm, I kept thinking of my father-in-law's favorite radio program: Paul Harvey. He loved the way Paul Harvey would say his famous phrase. Do you remember it? (*...and now it is time for the rest of the story...*) Psalm 110 reads like a Paul Harvey program. At Christmas, we focus on Christ's first coming and his humility. Sometimes Christmas appears almost feminine as we think of a new born baby with a teenage mother.

That is good stuff but it is only *part* of the Jesus story. Psalm 110 tells us the rest of the story . It is an important part of the story that is often not told. When Jesus comes a second time he will crush, destroy and slaughter his enemies. He will massacre everyone who has not bowed their knee to him. I know that doesn't fit with the picture many of us have when we think of Jesus. Not many churches tell that part of the story. Some of you may even find this picture of Jesus repulsive, but it is the Gospel. We like to picture Jesus as Mr. Rogers with a cardigan sweater. We like to think of him as a soft-spoken therapist who dispenses warm fuzzies to makes us feel good about ourselves. That is not the picture of Jesus Psalm 110 gives us. As Paul Harvey would say, now it is time for the rest of the story. Psalm 110 gives us three snapshots of Jesus. They are: Jesus as king; Jesus as priest; Jesus as warrior.

### **Jesus is the king.**

It wasn't just Christians in the first century who saw Psalm 110 as pointing to the Messiah. The Jews of the first century also understood Psalm 110 was about the Messiah. To show you what I mean, just look at the first verse.

**The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." Psalm 110:1 (ESV)**

How many people are involved? Three. There is David, the observer of the conversation, who writes it down. There are two different people called Lord. They are different words in the Hebrew for *Lord* but they are both divine names for God. One person who is divine says to another person who is divine to sit at his right hand, which is the position of highest honor, until all his enemies are

made his footstool. At this point, Psalm 110 is evidence for two different people of the Godhead. The question is, how do we know this applies to Jesus?

Jesus says Psalm 110 is about him. In Matthew 22, Jesus was talking with religious leaders who were trying to stump him in a public game of Bible trivia. Jesus destroyed them, which did not make these guys look good. The Pharisees just tried to knock him out with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. The Sadducees tried to knock him out with a question about a guy's wife at the resurrection. Jesus pointed out they didn't even know their Bibles, which was an extremely effective insult. The religious leaders are in the corner licking their wounds trying to come up with another stumper question when Jesus turns the table and asks them a question.

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, " 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. Matthew 22:41–46 (ESV)

Is it true that Jesus was a son of David? Yes! He came through David's earthly line. But here Jesus says the Christ will be more than just from the line of David. God calls him Lord. Jesus said, the Christ will be both the son of David, and according to Psalm 110, he will also be the son of God. That's Jesus!

A couple of weeks ago we asked an important question: Is it a big deal what you believe about Jesus? Today, many people say we shouldn't get hung up on doctrine. Just embrace Jesus for who we think he is. We should be tolerant of those who don't see Jesus the same way we do. We think trying to

champion a particular view of Jesus is unloving and intolerant. Folks, that is not being intolerant. It is being honest!

When Jesus came to this planet, he made extravagant claims. He claimed to be God in the flesh. He applied Psalm 110:1 to himself. Those are extreme claims. That is why the religious leaders of the day wanted to kill him.

When someone shows up and claims to be God, they are forcing you to make a decision. Either you decide they are a lunatic with a hardboiled egg for a brain or you have to believe them. There is no middle ground. To think Jesus is a good teacher or he is just someone that offered nice moral sound bites is not an option. He didn't leave us that option. He claimed to be God in the flesh. He told us what is at stake if we don't believe he is who he claimed to be.

**...unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” John 8:24 (ESV)**

If we don't believe Jesus is who he claimed to be, we will die in our sins. What does that mean? We will die unreconciled to God. We will face judgment for our sins and eternal damnation. Jesus will not be our savior, he will be our judge. That is why the decision we make about the identity of Jesus is so important. If we reject Jesus as he truly is, we are guilty of rejecting the king. We have become an enemy of the king, and God the father will eventually submit us to the king. We will be his footstool, the mat on which he wipes his feet. Understand God the father will eventually force everyone to submit to Christ.

That isn't a very Christmasy picture, but it is the rest of the Jesus story. In his first coming, he came to save us from our sin. He is coming again a second time to slaughter those who have rejected him. At that time, God the father will

force everyone into a position of submission to Christ since he is the king of creation. We either make him our king through his first coming now or he will be forced upon us at his second coming later.

### Jesus is a priest.

If the last snapshot of Jesus was terrifying, this snapshot is encouraging.

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

You are wondering, who is Melchizedek and how does this apply to Jesus? Let’s start with Melchizedek. He is a minor character that only shows up three times in the Bible. He first comes on the scene in Genesis 14 where he shows up out of no place and disappears. One thousand years later he shows up in Psalm 110:4. Then we hear about him 1,000 years later in the book of Hebrews. That is it. Hebrews 7, which talks about Melchizedek, explains his role.

Melchizedek was king of Salem. Many Bible scholars think Salem was an ancient name for Jerusalem, but we are not sure about this. Genesis 14 tells us he was also a priest of God. What makes this interesting is he shows up long before the establishment of the Aaron priesthood for the nation of Israel. He is a unique priest we know little about. In Genesis 14, Abraham gives him a tenth of everything he acquired after a battle. That is a lot of cash. Abraham is convinced he is an important guy. The writer of Hebrews comments on Melchizedek by saying *he is without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the son of God, he remains a priest forever.*

Some think Melchizedek was a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. We don't know that for sure.

Psalm 110:4 says the Lord that God the father is talking to in verse 1 will not just be king over all creation but he will also be a priest that reigns forever. God has sworn this and will not change his mind. There will be no further development of this. No alteration of this. Jesus will be a priest forever. What does a priest do? The priest is the go between for God and the people. The priest is the one who offers sacrifices for the sin of the people to bring them back into a relationship with God. The book of Hebrews says Jesus came and offered himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for our sin. He is the one who brings us together with God by the sacrifice of himself for our sin.

Now here is a good question. What did Jesus save us from? Some of you are hoping Jesus came to save you from a bad marriage. Others hope he came to save you from a bad job or a bad boss. Others of you are hoping Jesus came to save you from an average life. The Bible has a very different answer. Jesus came to save us from God. He came to save us from the wrath of God that burns hot against our sin and rebellion. Every one of us deserves the wrath of God to be poured out against us. Some of us are more outspoken rebels, others of us are quiet rebels, but we are all rebels. Every single one of us is born in rebellion against God and we would rather do our own thing than submit to God. We are on a trajectory headed straight for the Lake of Fire. Jesus came to be a priest and offer his life as the sacrifice for our sin. He came to die in our place for our sin and save us from the white hot wrath of God that we deserve.

Friends, until you get this straight, nothing in this book, especially the Christmas story, will make any sense. The main problem in the world is not troubled marriages, whether a Democrat or Republican is in the White House, global warming or financial decay. The No. 1 thing we need to be saved from is the wrath of God that we deserve for our sin. This is such a huge problem that the only way to take care of it was for God to take care of it himself. That is why Jesus also came as a priest. Jesus is the only thing that can protect you from God's white hot wrath against you for your sin. That is why Jesus came.

### **Jesus is a warrior.**

This Psalm tells us Jesus is the king over all creation. It tells us God the father installed him as king so there is no court of appeals. Next we learned Jesus is the once-for-all priest. He is the only one who can shield of us from the white hot wrath of God for our sin. A wrath we fully deserve. In the last snapshot of Jesus we see him pictured as a warrior.

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

What will happen at Christ's second coming? The rest of the Gospel story is quite crystal clear. He will shatter kings, judge the nations and filling the earth with corpses. What does this mean?

When Jesus comes back, he will judge every human being who has not submitted and surrendered to him as Lord. Jesus is either your savior or your judge. That is the way God the father set it up. He will judge religious people who do religious stuff. He will judge kind grandmothers. He will judge junior high

students. He will judge everyone who has not surrendered, repented and believed in him as his or her Lord and savior.

Jesus' first coming was humbling and comforting. The rest of the story is that Jesus' second coming will be terrifying for those who have not submitted to him. Is this an easy doctrine? No. It doesn't really preach well on Christmas Eve, but it is the rest of the story. It is not fair to tell only part of the story. The reason Jesus came to Bethlehem the first time was to save us from his wrath when he comes the second time.

God the father is really angry at us for our sin. He has a right to be. He is just. He will punish us for our sin, unless we have asked Christ to be our king and the priest who stepped in to take the wrath of God we deserve to experience.

Many of you have either read or heard of a book called "Love Wins." In that book, the author tries to make a case that everyone will eventually go to heaven. To make his case, he ignores and reinterprets clear teachings of Scripture, most of all, the words of Jesus. Jesus talked more about hell and judgment than he did about heaven. He was clear that there are two real and permanent places for eternity.

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:46 (ESV)

There are no other options.

Whoever believes in him (Jesus) is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:18 (ESV)



I like the way Mark Twain put it. “It is not the stuff in the Bible I don’t understand that bothers me. It is the stuff I do understand that bothers me.” This is something the Bible is clear on.

- 1) There will be a day of judgment.
- 2) There is real eternal life or eternal punishment.
- 3) The only way to eternal life with God is through Jesus being our king and priest.
- 4) Everyone else who rejects Jesus will be justly judged and punished for an eternity in hell.

That may not be the way you would have written the Bible, but you didn’t write it and neither did I. God wrote it. This is the rest of the Jesus story we often don’t hear.

### **Application**

What should we do with this as we celebrate Christmas?

**Tell the rest of the Jesus story** - This is a challenge Psalm 110 gives to those of us who have known Christ for years. Remember when you first followed Christ? Remember when you were fired up to tell people about Jesus? Then real life sets in. We don’t talk about Jesus in public because people might think we are weird. We could be labeled a Jesus freak. If we do talk about Jesus, we portray him as Mr. Rogers with the cardigan sweater. We don’t talk about the rest of the Jesus story with Jesus as king and judge.

If that is you, this Christmas Psalm 110 is calling you to repent. Only telling part of the story is tinkering with the gospel. It isn’t honest to only talk

about the first coming and not talk about the second. It is God's story. We don't have a right to change it. Yes, Jesus was born in Bethlehem as fully God and fully man. Yes, he died on the cross in our place, for our sins. Yes, he rose again and those who have trusted him will rise just like he did. But the rest of the story is that God has installed Jesus as king over creation and soon the father will extend Jesus' right to rule. Jesus will return again as a warrior to judge everyone who have not submitted to him and who insist on rebelling against him. That is the rest of the story. Don't be afraid to tell it.

The next challenge of this Psalm is for those of you who don't know Jesus.

**Make Jesus your king and priest** - What does this Psalm tell us we must do to be ready for his return? Let me make this simple.

1) **Confess my rebellion against God.** Stop playing games. Stop blaming others. Stop lying about it. Confess it.

2) **Repent of my sin.** Repent literally means to head in the opposite direction.

Listen to me. If a person says they have repented but they have done nothing to try to change their sinful behavior, they have not repented. Repentance is seen in our lives. That doesn't mean perfection. It means getting serious about heading in the opposite direction.

3) **Believe in Jesus.** This happens at the same time as we repent of our sin.

We turn from our sin and we turn to Jesus. We believe that Jesus died in our place, for our sin. He is the king of the universe and he is the one who has the right to rule not just all of creation but he has the right to rule my life.

4) **Obey the king.** Once we have repented and believed, then we must obey what the master asks of us.

My friends, while tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus in his first coming, I submit to the most quoted piece of Old Testament Scripture in the new, Psalm 110. It tells the rest of the Jesus story about Jesus' second coming.

Jesus is the king over all creation by decree of his father. Make him the king of your life tonight as your savior. He will be king over everyone and everything when he returns to execute judgment.



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