

Our King and Priest

“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.”

Psalm 110:1-2

“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4

Men Need a King and Priest

- A. In a world of sin and trouble, men need both a king and a priest for their respective functions.
- B. We do not read far before a mighty man Nimrod became king of a kingdom (Gen 10:8-10).
- C. The nations of the earth had kings (or queens), no matter what title they used (I Samuel 8:5).
- D. We need a king to protect, provide, empower, and inspire us by sovereign power and wealth.
- E. We need a priest to intercede, comfort, offer sacrifices, make peace, and bless our worship.

A King has Desired Functions

- A. Israel described the desired role of the king they sought like other nations (I Samuel 8:20).
- B. One function is a court of hearing, legislator, and executor of judgment against civil enemies to protect the person, property, and rights of each citizen. [Israel resented Samuel’s sons for their corruption (I Sam 8:3).]
- C. Efficiency is clear – a single man could hear a case, issue a new law, and execute it in minutes without all the arguing, bickering, posturing, and limitations of power we observe! [Consider the effectiveness of Esther in soliciting her husband the king to reverse genocide!]
- D. If he heard and accepted your plea, a remedy could be enacted instantly with supreme authority not to be questioned, opposed, or modified. [See Ezra 6:12; Esther 8:8; Dan 6:8.]
- E. A king is a courageous leader of men to face other nations in battle. [Israel misjudged the value of Samuel’s prayers compared to a royal general of the army e.g. I Sam 7:10.]
- F. It is the authority, courage, and presence of a king that helps motivate serfs to die in battle.
- G. They wanted a man with supreme authority to negotiate or to wage war with foreign nations.
- H. With police power and a standing army, a king could muster the whole nation for a great war.
- I. For enemies greater than you, your community, or city, a king could wage war against them.
- J. No matter if your fears or needs were private or public, a king could quickly remedy them.

A Priest has Desired Functions

- A. Paul explained the function of a priest to Israelites, which they understood well (Heb 5:1-3).
- B. A priest officiates as mediator between God and men to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. It is his business to know God, His demands, and how to satisfy those demands for constituents.
- C. He is a compassionate and sympathetic man, even for sins of ignorance or presumption, because he also has the same infirmities of his identical human nature that cause him to sin.
- D. He is motivated by his own sins and his constituents’ to offer sacrifices to appease God.
- E. A priest is able to make complete peace with God and bless your worship to be acceptable.
- F. A priest over time is able to get to know you, your weaknesses, and your temptations to help.
- G. A priest is able to assist your petitions for help or convey your gifts or blessings to God.
- H. A priest is able to instruct, teach, correct, rebuke, and warn you how to please God better.

Separation of Powers

- A. Pharaohs, Emperors, and other kings have combined both offices, or even claimed to be God.
- B. God limited His kings (after Saul) to the tribe of Judah and His priests to the tribe of Levi, so there was a very real separation of powers and division of labor.
- C. Under David the king, there were two high priests at different times, Abiathar and Zadok.

A Hint at Combined Powers

- A. Before we can read very far in the Bible, we encounter a hint at combined powers for good.
- B. After Abram's victory over a confederacy of kings, Melchizedek blessed him (Ge 14:18-20).
- C. Melchizedek was a king. He was king of Salem, the shorter name of Jerusalem (Cp Ps 76:2).
- D. Melchizedek was a priest. He was priest of the most high God; he blessed Abram and God.
- E. His name Melchizedek means king of righteousness – the kind of king you want (Heb 7:1-2).
- F. His title king of Salem means king of peace – the kind of king you also want (Heb 7:1-2).
- G. Melchizedek was greater than Abraham by virtue of the blessing and the tithe (Heb 7:4-10).
- H. Observe what constituted a celebration and fellowship between these two men (Gen 14:18).

A Prophecy of Combined Powers (Psalm 110)

1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

- A. The LORD is Jehovah, the Most High God, God of Abraham, Moses, and David (Ex 6:3).
- B. He ordained a Man to be king, who would be even David's king, as shown by David's words.
- C. God told His king to sit at His right hand, which is the most exalted position in the universe.
- D. He promised the king that He would bless and enable Him to conquer all enemies of the king.
- E. In this verse, David addresses us to describe this incredible divine ordination/coronation.

2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

- A. The LORD Jehovah, the most High God, added further promises of total victory for the king.
- B. The king would have divine strength from the capital fortress of Zion to hold absolute rule.
- C. The LORD Jehovah encouraged and instructed Him to confidently rule over all His enemies.
- D. In this verse, David addressed the king and prophesied about his divine help from Jehovah

3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

- A. In this verse, David addressed the king and foretold a future time of blessing and prosperity.
- B. The king's citizens would be willing subjects under His reign, especially in the day of his great power, when beautiful holiness would cover and pervade everything.
- C. The king would have a day of special power and promotion, in which the king's holy person and office would appear very clear and obvious like the rising of the sun for a new day.
- D. This event would also contribute to the king's youthful (and perpetual) strength and vigor.

4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

- A. The LORD Jehovah further swore, as God that cannot change – the king would be a priest!
- B. The Persians thought their laws unalterable, but they were altered and eliminated (Dan 6:8)!

- C. Not only would he be a priest, the king would be a priest forever – a perpetual priesthood!
- D. Not only would he be a perpetual priest – he would be a king-priest like Melchizedek.
- E. In this verse, David addressed the king and prophesied about Jehovah making him a priest.

5 The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.

- A. The psalmist now speaks to Jehovah and by inspiration prophecies of the king's kingdom.
- B. The Lord (lower case letters), meaning the God-ordained king, is at Jehovah's right hand.
- C. The king would have a day of wrath, at which time or times he would destroy His enemies.
- D. In this verse, David continued to address Jehovah by prophecy of what the king would do.

6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.

- A. The king will judge among the heathen, those who know not God, and annihilate their host.
- B. The destruction will be great, and it will be as if there was not sufficient place to bury them.
- C. No matter how many kings or other great leaders are confederate, he shall defeat them also.
- D. In this verse, David continued to address Jehovah by prophecy of what the king would do.

7 He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

- A. The king shall refresh Himself after His great victory and rejoice in His glorious success.
- B. He shall lift up His head with confident joy in the total defeat of the enemies of his kingdom.
- C. In this verse, David continued to address Jehovah by prophecy of what the king would do.

The Interpretation and Application of Psalm 110

1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

- A. This psalm is the gospel of Jesus Christ from beginning to end, without any other thought, and it describes one of the greatest events in the history of the universe (the coronation and installation of the Man Christ Jesus as King and Priest in heaven) and establishes a very precious theological or soteriological doctrine (the elect have a King and Priest for every need for eternity).
- B. This psalm is quoted by Jesus, Peter, and Paul (Mat 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Lu 20:41-44; Acts 2:34-35; I Cor 15:25; Heb 1:13; 5:6; 7:17,21).
- C. Jesus argued to the Pharisees that the sixth word proved Him much more than David's son.
- D. This psalm is referred to in several other places in the New Testament (Eph 1:20-22; Heb 1:3; 6:20; 10:12-13; 12:2; I Pet 3:22).
- E. Jehovah God chose one out of the people to be King over all (Ps 2:6-9; 89:19-37; Is 9:6-7).
- F. He has been ordained and installed with total power to rule over all His enemies, as He sits at God's right hand with a rod of iron dashing the nations in pieces (Ps 2:6-12; Rev 2:26-27).
- G. Scofield and premillennialists are wrong, denying Jesus His present and perpetual kingdom!
- H. The last enemy to be destroyed when Jesus delivers up His kingdom is death (I Cor 15:25).

2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

- A. Jehovah would provide divine power for Christ's kingdom (Is 9:6-7; Heb 1:1-14; 12:22-24).
- B. Jehovah committed all authority and judgment to Jesus Christ (Ps 2:1-12; 45:1-7; Jer 23:5-6; Luke 22:69; John 5:22,26-27; 17:1-5; Acts 10:42; 17:31; I Tim 6:13-16; Rev 2:26-27; etc.).

3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

- A. Since the clear and only theme of the first two verses is Christ's coronation as king, we will not teach regeneration from the text, as if it were Paul writing of Christ's regenerative power.
- B. The citizens of Christ's kingdom, His people, would be very submissive and obedient in the coming day when His power would be more fully revealed, which occurred after His resurrection by the explosive growth of the gospel in the world (Matt 21:41-43; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 2:37-41; 4:4; 15:14-18; 19:20; 21:20; 28:28; Rom 15:12; I Tim 3:16; Rev 7:9).
- C. The day of His power was His resurrection and ascension and sending forth of the Holy Ghost for the gospel era, which is called Today in the scriptures (II Cor 6:2; Heb 3:7,13).
- D. Remember, Psalm 2 was fulfilled following His resurrection (Acts 13:32-34; Hebrews 1:1-6).
- E. If we understand power as authority, Jesus obtained the promotion to the right hand of God (the definite context here) following His death, resurrection, and ascension (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 13:34; Acts 2:33-36; Rom 1:4; Heb 2:6-9; I Tim 3:16; Rev 12:10).
- F. The coronation of Jesus Christ was the greatest event in the universe. Read it in Revelation 5.
- G. *In the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning* is likely the most obscure phrase in Psalms, but its context limits it to Christ's coronation and building His kingdom (vss. 1-3a).
- H. Holiness was exalted when the Spirit of holiness raised the Holy Child Jesus from the dead and sanctified the church by His Holy Presence (Mal 3:1-4; Acts 4:27,30; Rom 1:4; 15:16; I Cor 3:17; 6:19; Eph 1:13; 2:20-22; 5:27; I Pet 1:12-16; 2:9; etc.).
- I. The womb of the morning is a rather natural metaphor for sunrise or a new day, which we find fulfilled in Jesus Christ in these passages (II Sam 23:4; Is 9:2; 49:6; 60:1-3; Mal 4:2; Luke 1:78; 2:32; II Pet 1:19; I John 2:8; Rev 22:16; etc.).
- J. How does Jesus have the dew of His youth ... in agreement with the context? By His resurrection, His body was delivered from corruption and was glorified in youthful vigor forever (Job 19:25-27; Ps 16:10; Acts 2:31; Rom 6:9; 14:9; I Cor 15:45; II Cor 13:4; Heb 7:16,25; Rev 1:18; 19:11-16; etc.).

4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

- A. Jehovah further ordained Jesus to be Mediator and High Priest like Melchizedek (He 7:1-28).
- B. We have no priest or pope on earth – not Jewish, Roman Catholic, or Mormon – we have the Apostle and High Priest of our profession sitting in heaven to save us (Heb 3:1; 8:1-2).
- C. This king, which would rule over all His enemies and flourish greatly, would also be priest!
- D. The separation of powers and division of labor that existed in Israel was abolished by the institution of a new priest after the order of Melchizedek, effectively ending Levitical priests.
- E. See the outlines at the end of this document that further describe the Melchizedek priesthood.

5 The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.

- A. God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, would execute the fierceness of God's wrath, which He has done and will yet do (Matt 3:11-12; 16:27-28; 21:40-46; Rev 19:11-16).
- B. A day of wrath is coming in which Jesus will sit as Judge of all men (Ac 17:30-31; Rom 2:16; 14:10-12; II Cor 5:9-11; II Tim 4:1).

6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.

- A. He shall destroy all His enemies and reign gloriously forever and ever – King of kings and Lord of lords – Hallelujah! See Revelation 19:11-21.
- B. Read another New Testament description of His coming in judgment (II Thess 1:3-10).
- C. Who are the heathen? The God-rejecting pagans of the Gentiles – a great victory for a Jew!
- D. His success will be so complete that the metaphor describes no more room to bury the dead.
- E. Rather than mere soldiers, our glorious King wounded other kings, for He is King of kings!

7 He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

- A. The psalms are poetry, designed for singing, and we should not let metaphors distract us.
- B. The context is a successful and victorious king defeating all his enemies, not being defeated!
- C. Pursuing and pursued kings do not have time to drink; defeated kings do not lift up the head.
- D. This victorious conqueror heading to His palace refreshed himself and rejoiced confidently, before getting to the palace and entering upon much greater celebrations (Ps 45:1-17).
- E. Many commentators want to find the crucifixion in this verse, but drinking of a brook in the way is not the same as God's waves and billows going over His soul (Ps 42:7)!

Why Fear Trouble or Enemies or Death?

- A. You have a king! You have a great King! The *King of kings* and Lord of lords is your Friend!
- B. In the day of trouble, He will hide you in His own pavilion (Ps 27:5-6; 31:20; Heb 13:5-6), which is the royal tent in the middle of the camped army of millions of pup tents of angels, for He is the Lord of hosts, the general of the armies of heaven! Glory! Go to His pavilion!
- C. Men solicit kings for financial mercy with a sick child – our King can heal your children!
- D. Paul stood trial alone before a pagan Caesar, but our King was with him (II Tim 4:16-18)!
- E. He has destroyed all His enemies and will destroy all yours as well. Put your trust in Him!
- F. Why fear death? He already died for you and showed you how to do it! He will receive you!

Why Fear Sin?

- A. He has paid for all your sins past, present, and future to never be remembered again! Glory!
- B. The sacrifice He carried to heaven was not your imperfect anything – it was His lifeblood!
- C. He lives forever, unlike priests before Him, to make constant intercession for you (Heb 7:25).
- D. Earthly priests may ascend a few steps; our Priest is higher than the heavens (Heb 7:26).
- E. Our King-Priest has declared that those who come to Him He will not cast out (John 6:37).

Our King-Priest Has Gone Further

- A. Some kings have died in battle while fighting for their serving people, but not willingly.
- B. Our Jesus died in battle willingly and knowingly, while purchasing adoption of enemies!
- C. What resume did David have? Goliath? David's Son openly defeated the devil and death!

- D. No priest ever lived through the temptations of sin without sinning ... but our Jesus did!
- E. What priest, knowing the fear of death, died for His people and came back to comfort them!
- F. Jesus perfectly kept the law of God and blotted out the handwriting of ordinances against us!
- G. What is the best relationship a priest can have with God? Our Priest is His well-beloved Son!
- H. He has made us king-priests to tread our enemies down with Him and enter God's presence!

Believest Thou This?

- A. It should purge your conscience to serve and answer God (Hebrews 9:14; I Peter 3:21).
- B. Peter and the apostles declared this glorious message of hope and perfection by the gospel.
- C. Jesus reasoned from this psalm with the Pharisees about Messiah's identity (Matt 22:41-46).
- D. Peter at Pentecost, quoting Psalm 110, declared Jesus both Lord and Christ (Ac 2:30-36).
- E. Apostles used this psalm directly and indirectly (I Cor 15:25; Eph 1:20-22; Heb 1:13; 10:13).
- F. Paul repeated and explained Psalm 110:4 over and over to wean the Hebrews from their esteem for the Levitical priests that Jesus gloriously replaced (Heb 5:6; 7:17,21).
- G. The angels announced to shepherds in Judea, "For unto you is born this day ... a Saviour"!
- H. What is the Lord's Supper? Remembering our King-Priest died for us and is coming soon!

For Further Study:

1. Sermon, "The Order of Melchisedec," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/order-of-melchisedec.pdf>.
2. Sermon, "Our Great High Priest," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/our-great-high-priest.pdf>.
3. Sermon, "King of Kings," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/king-of-kings.pdf>.
4. Sermon, "Stronger Man," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/stronger-man.pdf>.
5. Sermon, "Psalm 45," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/psalm045.pdf>.
6. Sermon, "Coronation of Jesus," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/coronation-of-jesus.pdf>.
7. Sermon, "Jesus Is Our Priest," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/jesus-is-our-priest.pdf>.
8. Sermon, "He Ascended Up on High," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/he-ascended-up-on-high.pdf>.
9. Sermon, "Great Mystery of Godliness," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/mystery-of-godliness.pdf>.
10. Sermon, "Delighting In Jesus Christ," ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/we-would-see-jesus.pdf>.