

I read from Psa 2 a couple of weeks ago and in verse 7 and it reads as follows,

I will declare the decree:
The Lord has said to Me,
You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

This was written in order to establish that the high priest

- must be appointed to the task.

Many of us enjoy reading the psalms. The book of Psalms is good. It contains themes such as,

- Praise and Worship
- Thanksgiving
- Trust and Confidence
- Repentance etc.

The psalms also contain Messianic prophecies.

FYI, Psa 110:1 is the most frequently cited OT text in the NT.

(Matt 22:44; 26:64; Mark 12:36; 14:62; Luke 20:42–43; 22:69; Acts 2:34–35; Heb 1:13),

Ps 110:1

1 The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

There was no one greater than

- the king other than God.

A few verses later David wrote:

Ps 110:4

4 The Lord has sworn
And will not relent,
"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

This is the second time in scripture this name Melchizedek is mentioned. First was in Genesis, then in Psalms.

Things to think about:

I mentioned this in closing when we last studied Hebrews two weeks ago.

When you read the scriptures, are you looking for Jesus on every page?

We read in the book of Luke the road to Emmaus, the day Jesus rose from the dead, Cleopas and another follower were walking along discouraged and confused when Jesus appeared to them. However, they didn't recognize Him.

Then Jesus called them foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Then Jesus began to explain to them what the prophets taught:

Luke 24:27

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

He wanted them to understand that the entire bible points to His person and work on the cross.

Are you living your life as if Jesus is returning today?

Is there anything you'd change today if you knew Jesus were either returning today?

Is Jesus going to find faith on this earth?

Will He find a church that is doing His work and abiding in His word?

To the church of Sardis Jesus said, I know your works, that you have a name (that is, that you have a reputation) that you are alive, but you are dead.

They had a reputation of being alive,

- but they were spiritually dead!

Then you have the church of Laodicea:

They're the church mentioned which finds no praise from God.

Is this the age where few people are reading God's word?

The picture we see of the Laodicean church is that of Jesus knocking and waiting to be invited in.

Jesus wants our dependence to be on Him,

Unfortunately, it was to this church Jesus said,

Rev 3:17

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'

What good is it if Jesus returns and finds rich people who are bankrupt of Jesus!

We should strive to be a church full of worship to God.

Worship shouldn't be routine,

Worship should be a genuine heart felt devotion to God.

Worship isn't based solely on what you say or sing, but it's how you live your life for God.

To the church of Laodicea Jesus said,

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten."

Jesus was speaking of their spiritual complacency.

Heb 5:6

6 As He also says in another place:

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek"; (Melchizedek - king-righteousness)

Again, this verse is a quote from Psalm 110:4.

The author is saying that Jesus is the eternal priesthood,

And because He wasn't of the lineage of Aaron,

- it's easy to see why His priesthood was difficult
- for early Jewish Christians to understand.

For most Jews hearing Jesus is a priest forever would have been a mental block

- because the priests came from the tribe of Levi,
- but Jesus was a Jew and came from the tribe of Judah.

Jesus was of a priestly order which predates the Levitical law.

- And the author calls on Melchizedek as a reference point
- for this priestly order.

So the author was saying Jesus is superior to the high priest

- because God has ordained Him,
- and He does not fit into the line of Aaron
- because He is of a greater more superior line.

Heb 5:7

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

Jesus, while a man on earth, experienced weakness and pain and suffering and temptation.

He wasn't crying because He knew He was going to die.

The cry Jesus let out was the strongest form of cry in Hebrews.

Heb 5:8

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

- Here we have Jesus, the Son of God,
- and we're told that He learned obedience.

He had to learn to be obedient to His parents.

- He had to learn to be obedient to those in authority.
- He had to learn to be obedient to God the Father in every situation.

Jesus once walked thru a town and saw a tax collector by the name of Matthew sitting at the tax office.

- and He said to Him, "Follow Me."

Then Jesus sat at a table with tax collectors and sinners.

And when the Pharisees saw Jesus sitting with tax collectors they asked the disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Matt 9:12-13

12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Jesus is comparing the sick to sin thus showing that sinners

- are in need of healing.

A person who is sick is in need of physical healing,

- and a sinner is in need of spiritual healing.

Then He says, "But go and learn what this means:"

'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Jesus was telling them to learn that He values a merciful heart

- towards others more than
- He values ritual compliance.

Jesus learned obedience in death

- and even in the things that didn't seem like much,
- like washing the feet of the disciples.

Jesus exemplified the role of a humble servant.

Jesus was not given a specific command to wash people's feet, but He did it out of submission to His Father's will to serve and to save.

The washing of feet pointed to the greater washing that would later take place on the cross when Jesus would cleanse us from our sin.

When was the last time you washed someone's feet?

Serving others in practical ways humbles us and blesses us at the same time.

The author of Hebrews says in verse 8, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

There are several biblical examples of obedience, some of which I think many of us would not have followed.

The first I think of is Abraham when he trusted God

- to provide when told to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

And what about Noah! Noah, I want you to build an ark because I'm going to send rain upon the earth.

This could have taken up to 120 years to build the ark. This required faith and obedience on Noah's part.

Gen 2:5-6

5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; 6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

Peter and the apostles continued to preach the word even when ordered to stop. They responded by saying, "We must obey God rather than men."

Our first obligation is to God. We must obey God regardless of the pressures from men!

After Paul planted a church in Thessalonica, he faced intense persecution which caused him to leave quickly.

But, young believers were left behind. So Paul sent Timothy to encourage and to strengthen the brethren in their faith.

And Paul said to them in their afflictions,

1 Thess 3:3

3 that no one should be shaken (don't be unsettled or agitated) by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

Appointed - to be destined or set in place. Suffering is part of the Christian calling.

When a bridge is built it has to be inspected for safety.

It's only when the bridge is complete and safe to cross

- that the bridge is open to the public.

Jesus through His suffering and obedience

- built the bridge between mankind and God.
- And it's only by putting our trust in Him
- that we can safely cross to the other side.

Heb 5:9-11

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," 11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing (to have lard in the ears).

Jesus became the author of our salvation. Many people want to be the author of their salvation but that leads to no salvation.

The author opens verse 9 by speaking of Christ having been made perfect.

- This does not imply that He wasn't perfect
- and then was made perfect.
- He was already sinless and morally perfect
- according to Heb 4:15.

The author is simply saying that Christ completed His mission on earth thus qualifying Him as our Savior and perfect High Priest.

2 Cor 5:21

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When God sees us, He sees Jesus covering us with His shed blood on Calvary. He died in our place so that we don't have to be eternally separated from God the Father.

Jesus is not only the perfect High Priest, He's our eternal salvation. He's not a temporary salvation, He's our lasting salvation.

The scriptures tell us there is no other name by which we can be saved.

Acts 4:12 makes it very clear

Acts 4:12

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Jesus Himself said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.