

THE CHRISTIAN CASE FOR POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT #3

I. Introduction

I want to continue to make “The Christian Case For Engagement” with a special Easter message entitled...

“The Risen King”

To refer to Christ as King is using a *political* term, since a king, by definition, is the male ruler of an independent state who inherits the position by right of birth.

Jesus did not rise from the grave as a Prime Minister or a President.

He is a risen King.

Therefore, His rule is not a dictatorship, not a democracy, nor a republic;

He is a risen King and His realm is a *Kingdom!*

Tonight I want to present 3 points that prove the political implications of the resurrection:

3 Points Tonight

- 1. The resurrection was God the Father’s Divine enthronement of His Son as King**
- 2. The enthronement of the risen King was a declaration of war on all His enemies**
- 3. The 2nd coming of Christ the King awaits the defeat and subjugation of all His enemies**

I’m taking my text today from Psalm 110, one of the most beloved of all Psalms.

Alfred Edersheim, (1873)

This psalm has been well designated the crown of all the Psalms, as Luther said, ‘it is worthy to be overlaid with precious jewels’.

The Psalm is unique in that it contains the words God the Father spoke to Jesus the Son after His resurrection from the dead.

In v.1, King David is being given a glimpse of the Godhead; he is overhearing what the God the Father is saying to Christ the Son after the resurrection...

Psalm 110:1

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

In Hebrew, "The Lord (YAHWEH) said unto my Lord (ADONIA)—this is the Father God speaking to His Son!

Jesus referred to this very verse in His debate with the Pharisees proving He was not only King David's son, but also David's Lord...

Matthew 22:41-42

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

Matthew 22:43-45

He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'"? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him.

The Jews knew that the Messiah would come through the line of David; a son of David; Here, Jesus Himself explains Psalm 110 as God's revelation to David that His Son would be His Lord, and His King; and this is my 1st point...

I. The Risen King

A. The Resurrection Was God the Father's Divine Enthronement of His Son as King

Psalm 110:1

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

1. The Father's first command to the Son is to "SIT" at His right hand;

- a. Kings do not stand on their thrones, they SIT!
- b. The great Puritan theologian Matthew Henry helps us here:

Matthew Henry

Sitting is a resting posture; after His services and sufferings, He entered into rest from all his labors. It is a ruling posture; a King sits to give law and render judgment. Sitting is His remaining posture; He sits as King forever.

2. Psalm 110 looked ahead to the coronation of Christ as risen King; In Ephesians 1, the Apostle Paul looked back to it...

Ephesians 1:19-21

...and what is the exceeding greatness of...His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

3. After the resurrection, Christ was enthroned as Kings over all spiritual power, (principalities and powers), and over all political powers, (might and dominion), and over 'every name that is named', in this age and the age to come!

1 Peter 3:21-22

...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, the angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him.

4. Review: So the resurrection was when God the Father enthroned Christ the Son as the Risen King over all authorities...including political.

B. Second: The enthronement of the risen King was a declaration of war on all His enemies

Psalm 110:1

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

Dr. Gregory A. Boyd, "God At War"

The death and resurrection of Christ was, most fundamentally, a declaration of war initiated by God against everything that opposes Him.

1. Notice: even though Christ would rise from the dead and be enthroned as risen King, He would still have enemies.

Matthew Henry

Even Christ Himself has enemies that fight against His kingdom and subjects, His honor and interest in this world. There are those that will not have Him to reign over them, and thereby they join themselves to Satan, who will not have Him to reign at all.

2. Notice the Father's promise to His Son, the risen King: "I will make your enemies your footstool..."; what does He mean?

a. In David's day, it was common for a king to symbolize his conquest of another kingdom by using the defeated ruler's neck as a footstool; he would literally put his foot on their necks.

b. There's a perfect picture of this in Joshua's defeat of the 5 kings in...

Joshua 10:24-25

So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks.

3. Here we have a prophetic picture of how all the political enemies of the Risen King end up...with His foot on their necks...But even now...Christ is ruling 'in the midst of His enemies...

Psalm 110:2

**The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!**

4. Here we have a great mystery; immediately after the resurrection, Christ, the Risen King, was enthroned above all in Heaven; *yet for the time being*, God has ordained that He is to rule on earth 'in the midst of His enemies!

Matthew Henry

He sits in heaven in the midst of His friends; his throne of glory there is surrounded with none but faithful worshippers of Him. But He rules on earth in the midst of his enemies, and His throne of government on earth is surrounded with those that hate him and fight against him.

5. The Bible tells us that those who hate Him and fight against Him include those in political power:

a. In Revelation 17, the Apostle John writes of 10 political leaders, 10 earthly 'kings' who will give their kingdoms over to the 'Beast'...

Revelation 17:14

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

b. Again in Revelation 19, we see Christ, the risen King at war with political powers:

Revelation 19:15-16

**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

c. Jesus' name here confirms the case we've been making for political engagement; as in our text...

Psalm 110:5-6

The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

He shall judge among the nations...He shall execute the heads of many countries.

REVIEW

- **The resurrection was God's enthronement of His Son as King.**
- **The enthronement of was a declaration of war on all His enemies**

I want to return to the text for my final point...

C. The Coming of Christ the Risen King Awaits the Defeat and Subjugation of All His enemies

Psalm 110:1 (ESV)

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, UNTIL I make your enemies your footstool."

1. Here we come to the one of the most compelling case for Christian political engagement: the coming of Christ cannot occur 'UNTIL all His enemies are made His footstool'.

2. The word 'Until' is a time word!

"Until"

A preposition used to indicate the continuance of something until a specified time.

a. If I tell you my children to sit still until the service is over, it means they are to remain seated UNTIL the service is over.

b. In this text, the Father is telling His Son to 'sit' at His right hand 'UNTIL' His enemies are made His footstool.

c. All Christians believe Christ is coming back; the question is 'WHEN'?

d. Many say, "SOON!" Some say "ANY MINUTE"! But let me gently, lovingly ask you, "On what biblical grounds do you believe He is coming soon?"

3. So many point to the newspapers and the current conditions of our culture as proof that the Lord is coming any minute; yet on the basis of Psalm 110, the Old Testament passage most quoted in the New Testament, I could say that the

fact that things are so bad is an argument for His delay! The fact we see so many of His enemies not under His feet indicates He is still sitting at the Father's right hand.

a. Consider the words of the Apostle Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:34-35

**For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:
'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your
footstool.'**

b. And again in Chapter 3:

Acts 3:19-22

**Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that
times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may
send Jesus Christ ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of
all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the
world began.**

c. And here is more of the same in the Book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:13

**But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?**

(And again...)

Hebrews 10:12-14

**But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the
right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His
footstool.**

d. The Apostle Paul also confirms that the end cannot occur until this condition is fulfilled...

1 Cor 15:24-25

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet.

Charles Spurgeon, "The Treasury of David"

As surely as Jehovah lives Jesus must reign. Yea, even now he is reigning, though all his enemies are not yet subdued. During the present interval, through which we wait for His glorious appearing and visible kingdom, He is in the place of power, and his dominion is not in jeopardy, or otherwise he would not remain seated. He sits because all is safe, and he sits at Jehovah's right hand because omnipotence waits to accomplish his will.

Charles Spurgeon, The Treasury of David

Therefore, there is no cause for alarm whatever may happen in this lower world; the sight of Jesus enthroned in divine glory is the sure guarantee that all things are moving onward towards ultimate victory. Those rebels who now stand high in power shall soon be in the place of contempt, they shall be his footstool.

4. We must not mistake perilous times as a failure of God's promise. Jesus taught in the parables that His Kingdom, rule and reign would come gradually; like a small seed that grows to greatness; like leaven in a loaf of bread.

Matthew Henry

It will not be done immediately. All his enemies are now in a chain, but not yet made his footstool. This the apostle observes. Heb 2:8, "We see not yet all things put under him." Christ Himself must wait for the completing of His victories and triumphs.

Matthew Henry

He shall wait till it is done; and all their might and malice shall not give the least disturbance to His government. His sitting at God's right hand is a pledge to Him that He will set His feet, at last, on the necks of all his enemies.

Review: 3 Lessons from Psalm 110

**The resurrection was God's enthronement of Christ as King
The enthronement was a declaration of war on all His enemies**

His coming awaits the defeat and subjugation of all His enemies under His feet

III. Close: One Important Question

What Part Does the Church Play in This Picture?

V1: The Father tells His risen Son to sit until He makes His enemies His footstool

V.2 God commands the Son to rule in the midst of His enemies

But then v.3, we see that as the power of God brings this about, God's people participate...

Psalm 110:3

Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power (ESV)

Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power (NKJV)

When you go to war, Your people will serve You willingly (NLT)

Every sphere of life must submit to the Risen King

ALL His enemies must be subdued; including political enemies

Jesus gave the Church the authority to make disciples of all nations

We do not do this by violence or force; but by the Word and the Spirit

This is the Great Commission of the Church.

Let me close with the words of Spurgeon...

Charles Spurgeon

For the present time, it is in and through the church that the power of the Messiah is known. Jehovah has given to Jesus all authority in the midst of His people, whom He rules with his royal scepter, and this power goes forth with divine energy from the church for the ingathering of the elect, and the subduing of all evil.

Charles Spurgeon

This promise began to be fulfilled at Pentecost, and it continues even to this day, and shall yet have a grander fulfilment. O God of eternal might, let the strength of our Lord Jesus be more clearly seen, and let the nations see it as coming forth, even out of the midst of Thy feeble people...

Closing Prayer

Title