

LESSON 13

The Kingdom's Final Triumph

Psalm 110:1-7

This is the declaration of the LORD to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."

PSALM 110:1

Psalm 110 is one of the most quoted and important messianic psalms, revealing the exaltation, priesthood, and ultimate victory of the Messiah. David records a divine declaration from God the Father to God the Son, inviting Him to sit at His right hand until all enemies are defeated. The psalm depicts Christ as the reigning King whose authority comes from Zion, the eternal Priest in the order of Melchizedek who intercedes for His people, and the righteous Judge who will administer justice to the nations. For believers, this psalm provides confidence in Christ's current reign, assurance in His priestly care, and hope in His final victory.

Class Objective: To deepen our understanding of Jesus as both King and Priest, to strengthen our confidence in His present reign and future victory, and to inspire willing service to Him as citizens of His Kingdom.

Introduction

Psalm 110 stands apart in the Psalter as one of the most explicitly messianic psalms, quoted or alluded to more than any other Old Testament passage in the New Testament. In just seven verses, it reveals the exaltation of the Messiah, the certainty of His victory, and the scope of His eternal reign. Written by David, the psalm opens with a divine conversation: God the Father addressing God the Son, inviting Him to take His rightful place at His right hand until every enemy is subdued.

This psalm was not only a royal coronation hymn in Israel's history; it is a prophetic declaration of the Kingdom's final triumph in Christ. Jesus Himself applied it to His own identity when questioning the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-46, forcing them to reckon with the reality that the Messiah is not only David's Son but also David's Lord. The apostles drew on it to explain His ascension (Acts 2:34-35), His priesthood (Hebrews 5-7), and His return to judge and rule (1 Corinthians 15:25).

Psalm 110 blends two images of the Messiah that Israel rarely held together: the conquering King and the eternal Priest. He rules with a scepter of power from Zion, yet He also serves as the priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. His victory is certain, His reign is universal, and His priestly intercession never ends. This is not just a psalm about the beginning of His reign, it's about its completion, when every rival power is overthrown and the Kingdom of God is fully realized.

For citizens of the Kingdom, Psalm 110 is a call to confidence and perseverance. Our King already sits on the throne. His enemies are already under His authority. His priestly work continues for our sake.

And the day is coming when what is true in heaven will be visible on earth, the day of the Kingdom's final triumph.

The Exalted King (v. 1-3)

Psalm 110 begins with a remarkable scene: *"This is the declaration of the LORD to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.'"* David, the king of Israel, recognizes a figure greater than himself: "my Lord." Jesus referenced this verse in Matthew 22:41-46 to challenge the Pharisees' limited understanding of the Messiah, demonstrating that He is not only a descendant of David but also David's sovereign Lord.

To sit at the right hand of God means being in the highest position of honor and authority. This is where Christ currently is, enthroned after His resurrection and ascension (Acts 2:33-35; Hebrews 1:3). The promise that His enemies will become His "footstool" guarantees the certainty of His victory. In the ancient Near East, conquering kings demonstrated dominance by placing their feet on their enemies' necks (Joshua 10:24). In this context, the image is of Christ reigning now while awaiting the complete and visible defeat of all opposition (1 Corinthians 15:25).

Verse 2 broadens the picture: His "mighty scepter" extends from Zion, signaling the active reach of His Kingdom. This rule is not limited to one city or nation; it extends over all His enemies, eventually covering the entire earth (Psalm 2:8; Revelation 11:15). Verse 3 then shifts focus to His people, who "volunteer on the day of battle" in "holy splendor." His followers are not forced into service; they respond willingly, clothed in holiness, renewed like the morning dew. The Kingdom advances not through reluctant subjects but through a joyful, devoted people who serve their King with gladness.

The Priest-King Forever (v. 4)

At the core of the psalm is a divine oath: *"The LORD has sworn an oath and will not take it back: 'You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek.'"* This verse is unique in the Old Testament—no other king in Israel was declared a priest forever. The reference to Melchizedek refers to Genesis 14:17-20, where Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, blessed Abraham and received a tenth of the spoils from him. His priesthood existed before the Law, was not based on lineage, and combined both royal and priestly roles.

The writer of Hebrews dedicates considerable attention to this verse (Hebrews 5-7), arguing that Christ's priesthood surpasses the Levitical system because it is eternal and unchangeable. Unlike Aaron's descendants, who served for a limited time and then died, Jesus serves as Priest forever, offering a perfect and final sacrifice for sin. This means our King is also our Mediator. He intercedes for us constantly (Hebrews 7:25). For the citizens of His Kingdom, this is a source of daily confidence: the One who rules us also stands between us and God, ensuring our acceptance and ongoing fellowship with Him.

The Victorious Judge (v. 5-7)

The psalm closes with a vision of final judgment and ultimate triumph. *"The Lord is at your right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His anger. He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses; He will crush leaders"*

over the entire world." The imagery is severe, emphasizing that God's Kingdom will not coexist forever with rebellion. The "day of His anger" points to the time when Christ will return to execute justice (Acts 17:31; Revelation 19:11–16). In that day, every enemy, whether earthly power or spiritual force, will be decisively overthrown.

Verse 7 presents a final image: *"He will drink from the brook by the road; therefore, He will lift up His head."* This may show the King pausing to refresh Himself after battle, lifting His head in victory. It is a picture of triumph, not exhaustion, symbolizing that the mission is accomplished and the outcome is certain. For believers, it signifies that the end of the story is not in doubt. The King who was enthroned, who now intercedes, will one day rise to judge, conquer, and reign openly. His victory will be the Kingdom's final and irreversible triumph.

Kingdom Focus

Psalm 110 offers the clearest Old Testament picture of the Messiah's complete rule, covering the past, present, and future. It starts with His exaltation to sit at God's right hand, continues with the ongoing expansion of His authority and the willing service of His followers, reveals His eternal priesthood for the redeemed, and concludes with His final judgment and triumphant victory over every enemy.

The psalm shows us that the Kingdom isn't waiting to be established, it already exists under Christ's rule. From His throne in heaven, He reigns now, transforming hearts through the gospel and gathering willing followers into His service. As Priest-King, He ensures our acceptance before the Father while guiding the mission of His people. And as Judge, He guarantees that every force opposed to God's will, spiritual or earthly, will be brought into submission. The Kingdom's final victory is assured, and its King will be glorified in the sight of all creation.

What's In This for Us?

Confidence in the Reign of Christ: We live in uncertain times, but Psalm 110 reminds us that our King is already enthroned at the right hand of God. His authority is not up for debate, and His victory is guaranteed.

Willing Service to the King: The kingdom progresses through those who willingly volunteer in the day of His power. Our obedience is not a begrudging duty but a joyful response from those who belong to Him.

Peace Through His Priesthood: Because Jesus is our eternal Priest, we can approach God without fear. He has dealt with our sin once for all and continues to intercede for us daily.

Hope in the Final Triumph: The day is approaching when all opposition to God will be defeated, justice will prevail, and the King's reign will be recognized across the entire earth. This hope sustains perseverance and bravery in the present.

A Kingdom Perspective on Life: Psalm 110 calls us to live today with the awareness of the Kingdom's ultimate victory, keeping our loyalty to Christ above all earthly attachments and working toward the day when His enemies are defeated and made His footstool.

Conclusion

Psalm 110 stands as a powerful declaration of the Messiah's identity and mission. It shows us the King exalted at God's right hand, the Priest who intercedes forever, and the Judge who will bring history to its appointed end. This psalm makes it clear that Christ's reign is both present and future. He rules now from heaven, gathering His people and expanding His Kingdom through the gospel, and He will return to make that reign visible and complete.

For the citizens of His Kingdom, this vision serves as both an anchor and a call. It anchors us in the confidence that our King's victory is assured, no matter how intense the opposition we face. It calls us to live with loyalty, service, and worship, knowing we are part of His ongoing triumph. As we await the day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses His lordship, Psalm 110 encourages us to stand firm in His reign, find rest in His priestly intercession, and move forward in the mission He has given His people.

For Discussion

1. How does Psalm 110:1 challenge or expand your understanding of the Messiah's identity?
2. What does it mean for you personally that Christ is already seated at the right hand of God?
3. Verse 3 describes the King's people as willing volunteers. In what ways can you live out that kind of willing service?
4. How does Jesus' eternal priesthood bring you daily confidence in your relationship with God?
5. The psalm closes with the inevitable defeat of all enemies. How should this promised victory shape our courage and priorities now?

6. In what ways does Psalm 110 help you keep a Kingdom perspective when facing political, cultural, or spiritual challenges?