

Psalm 110

What God Says About His Son

Who is Jesus Christ? Twenty, thirty years ago you probably would have gotten the same basic answer from most people you polled. But times have changed.

I want you to watch this 3-minute video of people being asked the question who is Jesus? These are people from the DC area giving their ideas about the identity of Jesus Christ.

We're not showing these because they're humorous. We're not here to laugh, these are serious, but what I want you to see is, more and more people in our culture either don't know, or don't want to know, about Jesus Christ.

Frontline video "Who Is Jesus?"

That's quite an assortment of perspectives, isn't it? Maybe you heard your own opinion of Jesus articulated on the screen.

Who is Jesus Christ? And how can we really know for sure?

In a minute I want us to look for the answer to that question in the Bible in Psalm 110. Psalm 110 is a unique Psalm.

Even though it is only 7 verses long, it's quoted directly or alluded to more often than any other Psalm by the New Testament.

We are going to study Psalm 110, but to prepare us, I'd like us first to turn to the book of Matthew, in the New Testament to see the significance Jesus Himself gives to Psalm 110.

Turn to Matthew chapter 22 page 970

In the last week of His earthly life Jesus Christ gave a direct argument from Scripture that he was Israel's Messiah.

The religious leaders of Judaism had been approaching Jesus with questions hoping to get Him to say something that would incriminate Him.

Finally, when their attempts to get Jesus to incriminate Himself under either Jewish law or Roman law had failed and everyone was silent Jesus put a question to them.

Read verses 41, 42

When Messiah comes, whose son will He be? Why David's of course.

Now listen to Jesus next question.

Read verses 43 – 46.

Jesus asked this question based on Psalm 110. In it he establishes 3 things.

1. King David wrote the Psalm. (David lived about 1000 BC)
2. It was spoken in the Spirit (in other words under the power of the Holy Spirit, not just David's intellect).
3. It concerned the Messiah. *Messiah* is Hebrew for "Anointed One. The New Testament Greek word is *Christos*.

The Son of David was actually David's Lord. Now they couldn't answer that question, but I believe they knew exactly where Jesus was going with that line of reasoning.

He was a son of David. Both his mother and father were directly related to King David. He did miracles that the prophets claimed the Messiah would do; healing the sick and raising the dead.

In Luke 18 there's an account of a blind man on the road outside Jericho. The Bible says, *So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And when He had come near, Jesus asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?"* (Luke 18:37,38,41)

Jesus fully accepted the title, Son of David. He was David's son and David's Lord at the same time.

The problem was for those who saw Jesus; he just didn't look like he fit the bill. He didn't glow, fire didn't shoot out of his fingertips and he hadn't appeared on a white horse to put down Rome.

And yet, Jesus claimed to be the son of David, the Lord spoken of in Psalm 110. Turn there with me now please.

Psalm 110 page 594

It is always interesting to watch the news and follow the politics of our world. But wouldn't it really be interesting if we could hear what's said behind closed doors? Wouldn't it be great if we could listen in and hear what is really taking place behind the scenes?

What we have in Psalm 110 is something of an inside line in heaven itself. We're given behind-the-scenes information here. We are with David as he's listening to the intercommunication between the persons of the Holy Trinity.

Here's conversation among the members of the Godhead.

See, Jesus Christ might have looked like any other human being. That was because he was a man. In perfect humanity Jesus came to identify himself with the human race. He was a fleshly "son of David."

But He was much more.

Read Verses 1, 2

In these words we join David as he experienced the Father speaking to the Son. David wasn't the one addressed as "my Lord" in these verses. David is the one who hears the words.

The LORD (hwhy the Almighty Creator) spoke to my Lord (Nwda Supreme Master).

I. Jesus Christ is Lord

This is a clear and plain prophecy of the exaltation of Jesus Christ to the position of highest honor. He's seated at the right hand of the Father and all opposing powers are subject to Him.

There's a sense of majesty about this Psalm that should make us want to celebrate and exalt the Lord.

From David's vantage point, Psalm 110:1 stretches far into the future. Logically and theologically it can't refer to Christ before coming to earth. It doesn't refer to His life on earth. It doesn't even refer to the cross or his resurrection.

Actually this verse refers to an often times neglected event, when it comes to celebrating Jesus ministry. This verse refers to the ascension of Christ.

In the New Testament book of Acts you find the account Peter preaching to the crowds gathered for the Feast of Pentecost.

This crowd was comprised of some of the very same people who had called for Jesus crucifixion just 50 days earlier.

Now Christ has risen. The Holy Spirit has come to empower the disciples and Peter preaches his first sermon.

He builds it around the resurrection, which no one can deny. No one can produce the body of Jesus because He rose.

Now look where Peter takes this. He doesn't stop at the resurrection, but he moves on.

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:32-36)

Jehovah, the Father, said to David's Lord, who was also David's son, "Sit at My right hand." It wasn't David that ascended into heaven – it was his descendant – it was Jesus.

In the ascension, Jehovah God established Jesus as Lord.

The man Jesus that we worship has been made both Lord and Christ.

He's Israel's Messiah, He's the Savior of the world and He's our King.

Isn't it interesting that in our evangelical, Bible churches we celebrate Christmas, which is the birth of Christ? We celebrate Easter, which is the death and resurrection of Christ. But we almost completely ignore the ascension.

When is the last time you were in a Bible church that celebrated Ascension Sunday? Normally that is left for churches that are very liturgical and formalistic.

The Ascension is the return of the Lord Jesus into heaven to the place of highest honor for our highest good. He is our King in heaven. And one day He's going to return as the great King over all the earth.

It's because of the ascension that we know that there is coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.

Talk about something to celebrate! Jesus is Lord. David called Jesus "my Lord." Can you say that in truth? If someone asked you, "Who is Jesus Christ?" would your response be, "He's my Lord?"

You and I should respond to these words in great praise to the exalted and magnified person of Jesus Christ.

Our worship services should reflect the majesty of the dignity of these words. Our lives should adorn our praise to the Lord. The eternal purpose of God is that Jesus be worshiped as Lord.

I. Jesus Christ is Lord

II. Jesus Christ is Priest

Read verses 3, 4

Notice Jehovah has taken an oath. He's sworn something. He won't relent.

The Bible says, *God is not a man that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will he not do it or has he spoken, and will he not make it good?* (Numbers 23:19)

What God says, He does. He will not relent. He cannot change. That's what the theologians call "God's immutability."

No matter what the physical appearance of Jesus was to those who saw him – the statement of God in heaven is, "He's an eternal priest."

For a Jew this is totally unique. In Israel the king was to be from the house of Judah and the priest was from the family of Levi.

Kings weren't priests and priests weren't kings.

But Jesus Christ wasn't a priest along the order of the Jewish Levitical priesthood. He's a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Melchizedek is a somewhat mysterious character from Genesis 14. Long before there was a nation of Israel or a tribe of Levi, Abraham called Melchizedek, "a priest of the most high God."

The name Melchizedek is a compound word from Klm which means "king," and qdu which means "righteousness." He was a king, but also a priest.

It's after that manner that Jesus is a King and Priest. But He's not a priest for just a few years. He's a priest forever.

The New Testament book of Hebrews devotes 6 chapters to explaining that Jesus is an eternal priest. Three times in those chapters the writer of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 110 and verse 4.

His point is this: A priest is someone who stands between God and us. From the beginning of time every religion has had some sort of priesthood.

And that's because people realize that God is holy and that they are not. So the priesthood is a way for them to get to God. A priest is a go-between. He is an intermediary.

I can't go to God myself because I am unworthy so I have someone go for me. Somehow he has the credentials.

In Old Testament Judaism the credentials were your family tree.

If you were a descendant of Levi then you were appointed by God as a priest. You offered sacrifices for the people and led the worship.

But even though the Levitical priesthood was God-ordained it had some built in weaknesses.

Mark your place in Psalm 110 and **turn to Hebrews chapter 10 page 1179**

Read verses 1-4

Earthly priests offered sacrifices over and over again. But those sacrifices couldn't take away sin. We know that for two reasons.

1. The blood of animals couldn't take away sins.
2. The human priests had their own sins.

The fact that they offered sacrifices over and over reminded the people about sin, but couldn't remove sin. Otherwise they wouldn't have needed to be continually offered.

Read verse 5

Christ came into the world taking on a human body. He was to be the sinless substitute for mankind.

Read verses 11 – 14

Jesus Christ is an eternal priest who offered up himself as the once-for-all perfect sacrifice for sin. Then he sat down at the right hand of God.

Jesus died, rose, ascended and then sat down. By the ascension the Father in heaven was declaring the cross to be sufficient. He was declaring Jesus work to be complete.

Read verses 19 – 23

Because Jesus Christ is an eternal priest who offered himself as an acceptable sacrifice we have direct access to the throne room of heaven itself.

There is a very important reason why we don't have a class of individuals called "priests" here in this church.

There's only one priesthood that is an eternal priesthood. That's the Melchizedek priesthood.

There's only one man who's a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, and that is Jesus Christ.

He's opened up the way for sinners like us to come to God. He's our mediator. He's our go between. He's the one you confess your sins to. He's the one you put your trust in for salvation.

Listen carefully. Any religious system today that claims to have a human priesthood; that claims to have a group that stands between the people and God, is missing this truth... *There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.* (I Timothy 2:5)

He is the one. There is no other. Jehovah himself has sworn “you are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

- I. Jesus Christ is Lord*
- II. Jesus Christ is Priest*
- III. Jesus Christ Is Judge*

Back one last time to Psalm 110

The meek and lowly Jesus, the Lamb of God, is also the avenging judge.

Read verses 5-7

The real picture of Christ would be incomplete without these verses. There is no way we can make them sound pleasant. This is judgment, but it’s a very real aspect of the nature of Jesus.

Listen to these verses from Revelation 19.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

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. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

A lot of people want to dismiss passages like Psalm 110 and Revelation 19 from the realm of reality. All of that destruction doesn’t fit in with their idea of God.

Rolland B. Allen who's a professor at Dallas Seminary said, "Recently I was speaking in a prophetic conference on the theme of Jesus Christ as the avenging judge. After one presentation, an obviously distressed woman came up to me and said, "I don't like that! I really don't like that."

So Dr. Allen said to her, "Then the message has been presented fairly. We're not supposed to like God's judgment."

It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. God's nature is to save. He has provided the way of salvation by sending His own son to die for sinners. He so loved this world that He gave His only begotten Son.

All who believe are born again as His spiritual children and will never face judgment.

But for the rest, for those who have chosen not to accept God's way of salvation, the Bible says there is a righteous and a just judgment.

When God judges he does it out of the excellence of His character. The idea of Jesus as the avenging judge may not be as appealing as Jesus the Good Shepherd, but it's a very real and important side to His character.

I don't know about you but I'm glad I live in this day and age. I'm thankful I can look back and see all of the prophecies of Christ and how they were all fulfilled in Him.

I can look back on the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ – but I can look to the future for His return in judgment.

We live in the age of grace. In a time when Jesus Christ says, *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.* (John 6:47)

During the Revolutionary War there was a pastor named Peter Miller who lived in Ephrata, PA. He had a neighbor, Michael Widman, who was a constant source of irritation to him. Anything the guy could do to aggravate Miller and make his work difficult, he did.

Then one day Miller learned that his neighbor had gotten into trouble with the Continental Army. He had been tried for treason and found guilty.

Miller went by foot from Ephrata to Valley Forge to intercede for his neighbor with General Washington. Miller was a well-known pastor and so he got his interview and pleaded his case.

Washington turned to him and said, “Sir, I’m afraid there isn’t a thing that I can do for your friend. The case was clear and he was guilty.”

To that Miller replied, “I beg your pardon General, he’s far from a friend. In fact he’s been an outright enemy.”

Washington looked at Miller in amazement. And he said this, “He’s your enemy and you’ve come all this way to intercede for him? That puts a different light on the subject.”

Then after listening a while longer he wrote out a pardon and handed it to Miller. The preacher walked as fast as he could another 15 miles to the place where the execution was to happen. He saw that a scaffold was erected and that a crowd was gathering around it.

Pushing his way through the mob his neighbor saw him and called out “You scoundrel, you came all this way just to enjoy my death.”

But Miller handed the pardon to the officer in charge who in turn gave it to Widman, and he was set free.

That, in a measure, is what Jesus Christ has done for us.

The New Testament says, *When we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.* (Romans 5:10)

Who is Jesus Christ? He’s the Lord, who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He’s the great high priest, interceding on our behalf

He’s the avenging judge who will be *revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (II Thessalonians 1:7, 8)

The Lord, the Holy Judge, has our pardon in hand.

Have you taken that pardon? Have you received the forgiveness that Jesus Christ purchased at the cross? He paid the awful price. The pardon is full and free.

It's for all those who obey the gospel.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. (Acts 16:31)