

## Jesus in the Psalms: King

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> message in our series: *Jesus in the Old Testament*. Today we are in the Psalms; we will have a few messages from the Psalms (including Psalm 22 the evening of Maundy Thursday).



Of all the places in the Old Testament where we find Jesus, the Messiah, the Psalms have the **most** messianic references. Scholars debate precisely how many. All agree on some. St. Augustine pretty much took the entirety of the Psalms to be messianic. Payne, a more middle-of-the-road scholar, counted 101 verses of direct prophecies of the Messiah in 13 different Psalms. We won't go through each... but we will touch on many.

Today we'll place particular attention on Psalms that cast the Messiah as **King**.

We already touched on Psalms 24 and 118 as we considered Palm Sunday, the *Hosannas* and *lifting of the gates* (see what I did there, sneaking in part of the sermon early?).

We don't have to merely rely on scholars to see Jesus in the Psalms; we can look to the New Testament where there are several references to the Psalms, specifically the messianic prophecies.

The most notable voice in the New Testament that draws out the promises of a Messiah found in the Psalms is Jesus Himself.

Here's an account from Holy Tuesday (the day after the day after that first Palm Sunday) from Matthew 22:

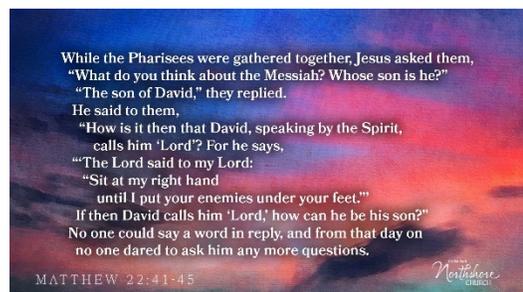
<sup>41</sup> While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup> "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

<sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

<sup>44</sup> "The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies  
under your feet." ' m



<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions. <sup>1</sup>

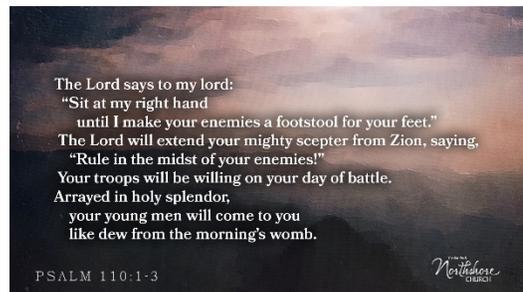
Jesus **was** an ancestor of David, *genetically* through His mother Mary... and son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit. They could not say a word in reply to this mystery; the mystery stood there, right before them.

Jesus was quoting Psalm 110, penned by King David around 1,000 years earlier.

Allow me to *beat this drum* one more time. If someone claims that the Old Testament is the Hebrew Scriptures, and the New Testament is the Christian Scriptures... and we should really only pay attention to the New Testament... may I suggest that we probably ought to read the Bible Jesus read?

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my lord:

**"Sit at my right hand**  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet."<sup>2</sup>



The right hand of a throne is the most prestigious position, second only to the throne itself. The One at the right hand is delegated the full authority of the King. This Lord, the Lord to David, empowered by the Father, is the Christ, the Messiah with **all** power and authority. He has the armies and the scepter.

These were concepts clearly understood by the Warrior/King David.

But notice something unusual about the Messiah's army, it says they will be:

Arrayed in holy splendor

This sounds more like the robes of priests than the armor of warriors. These are those armed for spiritual service, perhaps even spiritual warfare, as they serve, and worship, and pray.

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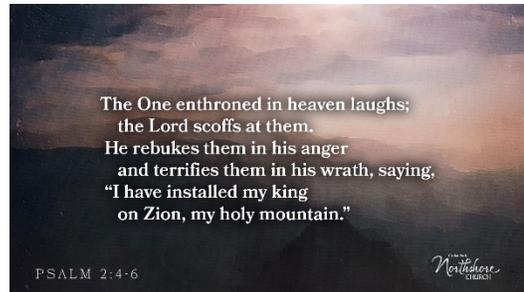
<sup>1</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mt 22:41–46). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>2</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 110:1). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

They are not clothed merely in the grimy uniforms of armies; they are clothed in righteousness. Believers are clothed in righteousness... not because of the righteousness we have done, but the righteousness we receive by and through Jesus. I believe we, the Church, are that army “arrayed in holy splendor.”

Think of that when you are quarantined, going to work these days and teaching your kids in sweatpants. You are arrayed in holy splendor!

This priestly language continues in the Psalm when it casts the Messiah in terms of the ancient priest and king of Jerusalem **Melchizedek**. He is a sort of mysterious one that blesses Abraham in those ancient days, mentioned again in the New Testament Book of Hebrews in addition to this Psalm.

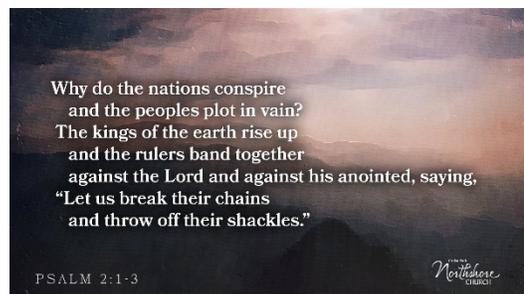


The reference to Melchizedek indicates that the Messiah is both King and Priest. He is One of peace and blessing.

This is the King Forever, the Messiah, prophesied by David. This is King Jesus.

We find more about this great King in **Psalm 2**. It begins:

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations conspire  
and the peoples plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth rise up  
and the rulers band together  
against the LORD and against his anointed,  
saying,
- <sup>3</sup> “Let us break their chains  
and throw off their shackles.” <sup>3</sup>



Here we are reminded to confront and confess our **rebellion**. Nations do continue to conspire against righteousness. Even in these days of quarantine, consider what governments consider to be *essential services*.

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<sup>3</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:1–3). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

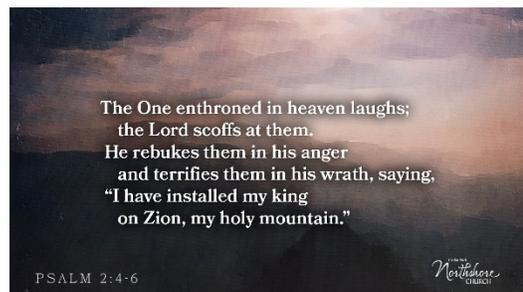
While churches are closed... weed shops, bikini baristas, and abortion clinics are open. It is as if we work at inventing ways to be evil.

And it is not just our governments; it is not merely the **macro**. It is the **micro** too; we all have ways of conspiring and plotting toward evil. We each have ways of excusing and accommodating our sin. Can we admit it?

We have a way of routinely mistaking the Lord's loving embrace for chains and shackles.

I think the message of these few verses might be: **Get smart.**

- <sup>4</sup> The One enthroned in heaven laughs;  
the Lord scoffs at them.  
<sup>5</sup> He rebukes them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,  
<sup>6</sup> "I have installed my king  
on Zion, my holy mountain."<sup>4</sup>



God does not *laugh* at sin... but I suppose He *laughs* at us. At least He ought to from time to time.

Think like a parent; parents know that sometimes the only response to the ridiculous behavior (rebellion) of our kids is to laugh. They think they are so smart and powerful when they are often so dumb and weak. All we can do is laugh. (I'm not suggesting you laugh in front of them... that just makes matters worse, in the moment, and perhaps even later on the psychiatrist's couch.) We scoop them up, we rescue them, we put them on the right path (often with their objections and opposition) and we laugh.

So it is with God. We want to be kings of our own kingdoms. But God says "I have installed my King."

The message of these verses may be: **Be warned.**

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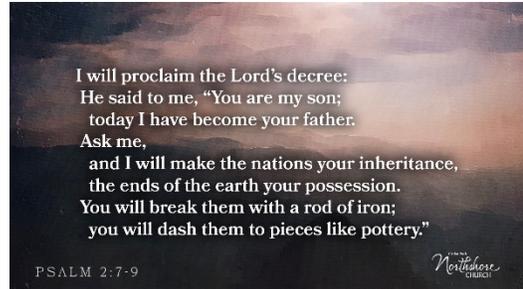
<sup>4</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:4–6). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the LORD's decree:

He said to me, "You are my son;  
today I have become your father.

<sup>8</sup> Ask me,  
and I will make the nations your inheritance,  
the ends of the earth your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You will break them with a rod of iron;  
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."<sup>5</sup>

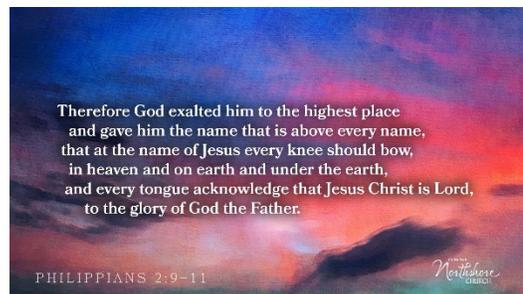


What does this King desire? What does Father have for this Son? **The nations.** It puts me in mind of the promise found in Philippians 2:

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every  
name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should  
bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ  
is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.<sup>6</sup>



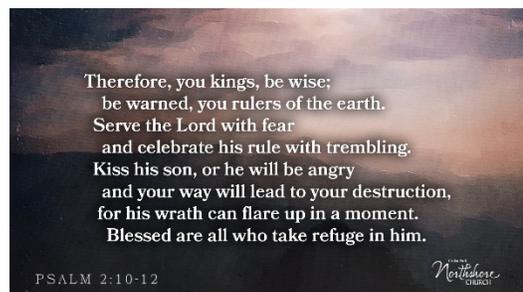
The message of this passage is: **Worship Christ for Who He Is.**

We can bow humbly, believing in Jesus... or there will be a day of bowing humiliated... broken and dashed like pottery.

Here are the final verses of Psalm 2:

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear  
and celebrate his rule with trembling.<sup>7</sup>



Be wise. This isn't merely a message for political leaders, or dictators or any sort of king along those lines. This is a message for each of us who strive to be

<sup>5</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:7–9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>6</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Php 2:9–11). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>7</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:10–11). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

kings of our own lives, kings of our own little kingdoms. Be wise. Be warned. Hear the call. Hear the message.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss his son, or he will be angry  
and your way will lead to your destruction,  
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.<sup>8</sup>

*Kiss the son...* well that likely sounds weird in our contexts. Maybe it would make a little more sense to us if it said “kiss the ring.” That’s the sort of thing we might have seen in a movie... kissing the ring of a sovereign, a king, or a pope, or even a mob boss. It is a sign of acknowledging authority. It is a tangible expression demonstrating just who is the boss.

It is back to that declaration in Philippians 2... that Jesus Christ is Lord. Kissing the son (kissing the ring) is primarily a matter of declaring the Son, Jesus, as Lord and ruler of everything, including our lives.

The One who served us with His Body and Blood deserves our undivided loyalty and service.

Finally, note the promise at the end of Psalm 2:

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.<sup>9</sup>

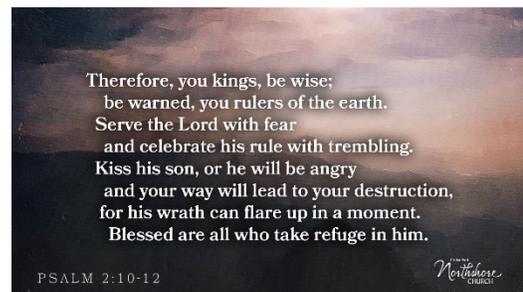
Friends, this ancient invitation is for **us** today... to take refuge in Him.

Refuge in Jesus is the only place for real peace and safety... both for now and for eternity.

Take refuge in King Jesus today.

Perhaps you have worry and fear. It is really easy today with all of the messages of catastrophe and sickness coming at us from every direction.

I usually really like to watch the news; I have it on, often in the background a lot. Perhaps too much. I had to give myself a break this week. It can be too much, overwhelming really. The news could convince us that there is no



<sup>8</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>9</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ps 2:12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

place for safety, no hope, no refuge. Don't believe it. There is a place of safety. There is refuge... refuge in the King who saves us, refuge in Jesus.

Perhaps you have never found yourself in His refuge. Make today your day. It is no accident you are hearing this today. Let faith arise. Turn to Jesus and believe today. It can be as simple as a three-word prayer: Jesus, I believe.

We all can cry Hosanna, Lord save us, Lord help us to find our refuge in You.

Father, thank you for our Messiah, our Christ, our Savior, King Jesus. Forgive us of our rebellion. Forgive us for our routine of making ourselves kings of our little kingdoms. We come to you again, receiving Your Mercy and Grace, Your forgiveness. Help us to serve You, and the World You Love as members of Your family, Your army arrayed in glorious splendor, We thank You, and pray in the name of King Jesus. Amen.