

Psalm 110 – Sit at My Right Hand

INTRODUCTION

People of God, during this season of Advent we have been anticipating the coming of the Messiah to save us from all our sins and all our enemies.

Today we will consider the significance of Christ's fulfillment of this promise as it relates to the Covenant God made with King David.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

Recall, in our Gospel reading in Luke 1, the angel Gabriel appeared to the virgin Mary and said to her:

“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

*²⁹But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; **and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** ³³And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

The promise that her son would be given the throne of his father David is the fulfillment of 2 Sam. 7, which was our first lesson this morning. Recall there, that in response to David's request to build God a house, God promised to build a house for David, a royal dynastic house. And one of David's royal sons, his own seed would build a house for God, and God would establish His throne forever.

As 2 Sam. 7:13 says – *“He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”*

This is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the son of King David according to the flesh, through his earthly father Joseph, but he is also the Son of God, being conceived by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary. As the angel Gabriel said, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

After Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist, Mary sang a song, the Magnificat, which we also sang today. In it, she picks up on this dual theme we have been talking about, of God coming to save us from all our sins and all our enemies. She says:

My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things;

And the rich he hath sent empty away.

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, also sang of this dual theme and connected it to the promise God made to David. He said,

⁶⁸*“Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,*

For He has visited and redeemed His people,

⁶⁹*And has raised up a horn of salvation for us*

In the house of His servant David,

⁷⁰*As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,*

Who have been since the world began,

⁷¹***That we should be saved from our enemies***

And from the hand of all who hate us,

DAVID’S THRONE IS THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

People of God, Jesus Christ is that Davidic King, and Psalm 110 foretells of the fulfillment of this glorious promise to save us from our sins and enemies when it says, “*The LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand till I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.*”

Some believe that the kingdom of God promised in Psalm 110 has not yet been fulfilled. According to Dispensationalist beliefs, Christ offered the kingdom of God to the Jews at His first coming, but was rejected by them when they crucified him. The fulfillment of the promise of the kingdom has thus been postponed until Christ's second coming. At that time, they teach, he will establish his 1000-year reign from David's physical throne in earthly Jerusalem, and then put his enemies under his feet.

The only problem with this novel and strange interpretation is, that is not what the Bible teaches. Acts 2:30-33 explicitly teaches that God's promise that he would raise up one of David's descendants to sit on His throne was fulfilled when Christ was exalted to the right hand of God, which is itself a fulfillment of Ps. 110:1. Peter, in Acts 2 says:

Therefore, being a prophet, (speaking of King David) and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ 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.

³⁴ *"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:*

*‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
³⁵Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’*

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Did you hear what Peter said?

*God swore He would raise up the Christ to sit on David’s throne;
This Jesus God has raised up;
Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God,
For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself:*

*‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
³⁵Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’*

The Throne of David is the Right Hand of God in Heaven. During Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of the promise that God made to David, that Christ will come as the Davidic King and he will save us from all our sins and all our enemies. Through Christ’s incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension, this promise has been fulfilled in Christ being exalted to the right hand of God, and thus His Lordship continues to inspire us to have faith and hope in the coming kingdom of God in our times.

For amidst the many challenges the enemy has surround us with, it's easy to feel discouraged and lose hope. However, when we

truly understand the message of Ps. 110, we find renewed hope and strength in this – that Jesus Christ is the reigning King, who is actively defeating His enemies even now. This is a source of boundless joy and hope for Christians, which renews our courage in the power of the Gospel.

This Christmas, let us remember that the King is born. But what truly gives Christmas its joy is what He is currently doing as King - subjugating His enemies and protecting His saints. This is what Christmas is all about, and it is the basis for the theology of many of our beloved Christmas Carols, such as Joy to the World.

PSALM 110

I would now like to consider what Ps. 110 teaches us about Christ's glorious reign.

Verse 1 – Christ's current reign from the right hand of God consists of ever-increasing and continual victory over His enemies.

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

The Lord's promise to extend his dominion by subjugating his enemies signifies absolute total control and dominance. This is the course of all history till Christ returns. Christ's return does not inaugurate his kingdom rule, but consummates and completes His rule. It is then, when he returns to resurrect His saints and defeat the last enemy, Death, that he will hand the kingdom back over to

God the Father. This promise inspires us to trust in the Lord's ultimate victory over all challenges, and to have faith that through His grace, we too can overcome any obstacle that comes our way, while always rejoicing.

This is what the Apostle Paul teaches in 1 Cor. 15. Specifically, when speaking of the resurrection at the end, he says this:

²³But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴Then comes the end, (lit. The End) when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "He has put all things under His feet."

Christ is currently ruling and reigning from the right hand of God. His power is being exercised over His enemies, and it will continue to grow until every last one is under Christ's feet. This gives us hope right now.

Verse 2

*² The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

Christ has been told to rule in the midst of His enemies. However, if His reign had begun at His return, when He defeated all His enemies, it would not be in the midst of His enemies but in

the midst of His friends. But we know that the Lord is currently ruling because there are still enemies. He exercises the power of His rule over His enemies using the rod of His strength, which is the scepter of His power.

So, what is this scepter of power that Christ wields? It is the preaching of His cross. Remember when the Roman soldiers put a purple robe on Him, placed a crown of thorns on His head, and a reed in His right hand? Remember when they mockingly bowed before Him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews"? Remember when they anointed Him with their spit? Although Christ's crucifixion may have been a mockery in the eyes of the Roman soldiers and Jews, it was, in fact, His enthronement as King of the Jews.

Therefore, the preaching of the cross is the rod of His power unto salvation. Christ our Lord stretches forth this word from Zion, which is the Heavenly Jerusalem and also the Church. Through the powerful preaching of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, His enemies are brought near, and His foes are made into friends. It is through this preaching that Christ uses to convert His enemies and rules in their midst.

And then verse 3 says:

*³ Your people shall be volunteers
In the day of Your power;*

The term "volunteering" is often used to refer to military service. In the Christian faith, when people are converted by the

power of Christ, they willingly offer themselves to join His army. They become part of the Lord's Forces and, along with Him, set out to spread the powerful message through the preaching of the cross which conquers the world.

No army is complete without uniforms. So what are these volunteers wearing? White robes.

*In the beauties of holiness, (or in garments of holiness),
from the womb of the morning,*

These volunteers are dressed for battle looking just like the Commander of the Lord's army, they are wearing the white robes of their baptismal resurrection.

This image of Christ and His people wearing white robes riding forth with the power of the word of God to slay their enemies and convert them is also found in Rev. 19.

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the

Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Commenting on Revelation 19, David Chilton said:

Riding out on His war-horse, followed by His army of saints, He conquers the nations with the Word of God, the Gospel. This is a symbolic declaration of hope, the assurance that the Word of God will be victorious throughout the world, so that Christ's rule will be established universally. Jesus Christ will be acknowledged everywhere as King of all kings, Lord over all lords. From the beginning of Revelation, Christ's message to His Church has been a command to overcome, to conquer (2:7, 11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21); now He assures the suffering Church that, regardless of the fierce persecution by Israel and Rome, He and His people will in fact be victorious over all enemies.¹

The verse continues and says: *You have the dew of Your youth.*

This describes how the followers of Christ, known as His Church militant, are present all around us like the dew that covers the ground in the morning. Similar to how dew replenishes and revitalizes the earth, these volunteers also bring new life of the Spirit to the world.

Now we move to verse 4:

¹ Chilton, Days of Vengeance, 488-489.

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

In the book of Genesis chapter 14, a mysterious character called Melchizedek appears. After Abram fights and wins a battle against some kings to save his nephew Lot, Melchizedek serves him bread and wine. Melchizedek means King of Righteousness and he is also the King of Salem, which later becomes Jerusalem. Furthermore, he is a Priest of God Most High.

The book of Hebrews elaborates on Melchizedek's story. Because he appears without any information about his ancestry or lineage, he is considered to be without the beginning or end of life and is compared to the Son of God. He remains a priest continually.

Hebrews continues to develop this theme and says, *Because He continues forever, and has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore he is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

This speaks of how Christ saves us from all our sins. He has been perfected forever in His glorification, and ascension to the right hand of God, and thus he always lives to intercede on our

behalf. And, because he is the perfect sacrifice who takes away sins forever, we are assured that all our sins are forgiven.

David was also a kind of Melchizedekian Priest. He not only served as the King of Jerusalem, but he also led worship before the Ark of the Covenant in the capacity of a priest. David's liturgical leadership extended to the Tabernacle of David, where he united both Jews and Gentiles into one worshipping body.

Jesus is the embodiment of a True Davidic and Melchizedekian Priest-King, leading the entire world in worship of the One True God. His worship refreshes and nourishes the world like the dew, while reviving his saints with Bread and Wine after their weekly battle against the enemy.

Here in v. 5-6, David speaks to God the Father about the Lord Jesus, saying:

*⁵ The Lord is at Your right hand;
He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.
⁶ He shall judge among the nations,
He shall fill the places with dead bodies,
He shall execute the heads of many countries.*

The text speaks of the day of judgment, when the king will exercise the power of God's right hand and overcome all resistance from rebellious kings. On that day, all nations and their leaders

will be gathered before Him, and those who have rebelled against His righteous rule will be destroyed.

As Ps. 2 says, *Kiss the Son lest He be angry and you perish the way., when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

David Chilton thus observed:

All nations are absolutely required to be Christian, in their official capacity as well as in the personal character of their individual citizens. Any nation that does not submit to the all embracing rule of King Jesus will perish; all nations shall be Christianized someday. It is only a matter of time. Jesus Christ is the universal Sovereign, and He will be recognized as such throughout the earth, in this world as well as in the next, in time as well as in eternity. He has promised: "I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps.46:10). The LORD of hosts is with us.²

The text inspires us to live a life of faithfulness and obedience to God, so that we may be among those who are glorified on that day when Christ is exalted in us.

There is something else worth considering that may give us hope now, and not just for the future. We have established that Jesus is a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.

² Chilton, Days of Vengeance, 489.

Jesus has the power of an indestructible life and cannot be killed. He will never die and will reign forever.

Now consider, it has been 2000 years since our Lord ascended to the right hand of God, and every day since then, his enemies have been dying. And yet despite the passage of time, Christ our Lord is still alive. He lives forever!

The world is full of graveyards where people who have passed away are buried. This serves as a testimony to the eternal life and power of Jesus Christ. Even though we all eventually die, Christ lives forever. Therefore, no matter how difficult things may seem in our lifetime or the next 100 years, it is only a small part of the Almighty King's sovereign plan. He always moves forward with the strength of His eternal power and youthfulness, with renewed zeal and vigilance to bring about the fulfillment of His plan to spread the Gospel and conquer the world.

Every King, emperor, nation, or conspiracy that has risen against him has been defeated, and destroyed. They come and go with the winds of time, being shaken and dismayed and blown away. Therefore let us be grateful, for we have received a kingdom which cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

We are given the image of Christ's fierce and unwavering determination to pursue every last enemy till even death itself is destroyed, **in verse 7:**

*⁷ He shall drink of the brook by the wayside;
Therefore He shall lift up the head.*

This is a reference to Gideon and his 300 men who were refreshed by the brook as they prepared for battle. These drank with their heads up, on the alert, ready to take the fight to the enemy. These were not afraid like the others who left. Neither were they occupied with satisfying their carnal thirst. Thus the Lord deemed them not worthy to remain in Gideon's army.

But Jesus Christ is the true warrior king, who refreshes himself in the brook by the wayside, not stopping pursuit, but only to refresh himself so he can continue to press on to victory. He will finish what he completed. Every single last one of Christ's enemies will be put under His feet. Of that, we are most confident.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in conclusion, I urge you to rejoice in the birth of the Son of God this Christmas season. For Jesus Christ has fulfilled God's promise to save us from all our sins and all our enemies. This promise was made to King David, was foretold in Psalm 110, and was confirmed in Christ's ascension to the right hand of the Father. It is from there, the right hand of God and the throne of David, that Jesus Christ reigns over an everlasting Kingdom until God puts all His enemies under Christ's feet. And so we rejoice.

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept since the world began but now manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith – to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.