



Encountering God
THROUGH PRAYER

September 29th. through October 4th. 2019

Psalm 110

1 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." 2 The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! 3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. 4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. 6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. 7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

- Psalm 110 is directly quoted more than 20 times in the New Testament (more than any other Old Testament passage).
 - Jesus used this psalm to explain to people who He was.
 - Peter used it in the first gospel sermon on Pentecost.
 - The Hebrew writer goes to this psalm more than once to help his audience understand the scope of God's plan to save us.
- The scope and frequency of its use show it to be one of, if not the, most influential scriptures of the New Testament.
 - We'll unpackaged the psalm and at the end discuss the impact its message should have on our prayers.

Verses 1-2... Tell Us of a Divine-Human King

- Matthew 22 tells of the Jewish leaders testing Jesus with a series of questions hoping to discrediting Him in the eyes of the masses.
 - After answering their questions perfectly He turns and questions them about this text (note Matt 22:41-45).
 - ▶ Point = Messiah can't be just a human descendant of David for two reasons.
 1. If He was, David would have called Him son and not lord.
 2. If He was, God would have said "sit at my feet" not "right hand".
- Point = The Jews had decided who Messiah would be based on their wants. Jesus is saying... I'm not the Messiah you want, I'm the Messiah you need.
 - Most Americans say... *"I have the right to choose how I want to live"*.
 - Jesus says... *"I am the way. No one comes to the Father but through me"*.

“An 'impersonal God'-well and good. A subjective God of beauty, truth and goodness, inside our own heads-better still. A formless life-force surging through us, a vast power which we can tap-best of all. But God himself, alive, pulling at the other end of the cord, perhaps approaching at an infinite speed, the hunter, King, husband-that is quite another matter.”
-CS Lewis (Miracles)

Verse 4... Tells us of a Priest

- This text illustrates why there was so much debate about Messiah among the Jews... Kings and Priests were always very different.
 - Kings were enforcers of the law. They dealt in strength and might and brought judgment to the habitual offender.
 - Priests were about getting atonement and forgiveness for the people. They were the health and social work department.
- Jesus combines things that no one else can combine.
 - If we're focused solely on Jesus the King or Jesus the Priest we are creating distortions for ourselves.
 - The beauty of Jesus is seen in the convergence of His diverse excellencies.

In front of His opponents He is undaunted and bold.

“you whitewashed tombs”

In the presence of the suffering He is compassionate and tender.

“Talitha Kum”... “little girl, wake up”

Verse 3... Tells of the Transforming Power the Priest-King Possesses

- We often think of goodness in the context of JUSTICE or in the context of LOVE (cf. Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7).
 - God can't be completely good unless He punishes all sin, which is true.
 - God can't be completely good unless He forgives sin, which is also true.
 - The justness and love of God coming together perfectly on the cross is what inspires us to volunteer.
- vs. 6 envisions the Deliverer as heaping up corpses like one of the judges. But Jesus is a very different kind of King.
 - Ephesians 1:18-23... Note vs. 20 is a quote from Psalm 110:1.
 - Also note that Jesus is filling the earth with His body, the church... vs. 23.

Prayer has always been a companion discipline to study and meditation. Therefore, one of the main functions of prayer is to get our desires, will and conduct in line with God's

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.