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Sermon Notes

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The Identity, Victory and Priesthood of the Messiah

Psalm 110

I. The “Son of David”

A. A Dominated People

1. Rome’s crushing ascendancy... only just beginning
2. The “times of the Gentiles”... one Gentile nation after another
3. Roman rule strangling the life from Israel

B. An Ancient Kingdom, An Ancient Covenant, An Ancient Prophecy

1. David’s kingdom: Israel’s spiritual and political apex
2. Israel’s dream: Those days would come again

2 Samuel 7: 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Faithful Jews were waiting for the “consolation of Israel,” the “Son of David” who would raise up the shattered fragments of David’s royal throne and sit on it once again... he would be powerful to defeat his enemies, and no one could stand before Him

C. Calling on the “Son of David”: people claimed Jesus as the Messiah

Matthew 9:27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

Matthew 12:22-23 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³ All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

Matthew 15:21-22 *Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."*

[Triumphant entry] Matthew 21:9 *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"*

D. Jesus WAS the “Son of David”... but so much more than they thought!!

1. Son of David established as the first fact of the New Testament

Matthew 1:1 *“The record of the genealogy of Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”*

2. Son of God established as the CENTRAL FACT of the New Testament

Luke 1:30-33 *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

Son of David, yes... also Son of God Most High

The people waited for a human king, another David to reign over the Romans... their dreams seemed ludicrous to the world dominating Romans! That a tiny Palestinian state like Israel could rise to world domination... What a dream!

It turns out their wildest dream hadn't been wild enough... their dream was actually too small. The Son of David was to be so much more—the Son of the eternal Creator of the Universe. So, one day Jesus decided to challenge their thinking about the identity of the Christ. And He used the one key word in the first line of Psalm 110 to do it.

II. The Identity of the King (vs. 1)

vs. 1 *“The Lord said to my Lord...”*

Key question: who is David's Lord, to whom the Lord spoke?

Matthew 22:41-46 *While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, ⁴⁴ " 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." ⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

A. The Penetrating Question of Jesus Christ

1. Christ's key assumptions concerning Psalm 110

a. David wrote Psalm 110

- i) "Ridiculous!" says modern Biblical scholarship
- ii) 1889, Bishop Gore proposed "kenosis" theory based on fact that Christ made a mistake in ascribing Psalm 110 to David!
- iii) even evangelical scholars hesitate to ascribe this Psalm to David
- iv) who do you trust? Modern Bible scholars or Christ Himself?
- v) Christ's argument totally falls apart if anyone other than David wrote Ps. 110

b. David wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

- i) every word perfectly inspired by the Spirit
- ii) David wasn't wrong to call Him "my Lord"

2 Peter 1:21 "Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

c. He was speaking of the Christ

- i) "Messiah" never mentioned here
- ii) but this was a "Messianic psalm"... David's words pertained to the Christ
- iii) again Christ's argument falls apart if the Psalm wasn't about the Messiah

2. Judaism's key assumptions concerning the Messiah

a. "Son of David" = fulfillment of Davidic covenant

b. "Son of David" = patterned after David's earthly reign

c. patriarchal rule

- i) father always greater than the son
- ii) "honor your father and mother"
- iii) David and Solomon: Solomon called David's servant, David gives Solomon commands to get him ready to be king

3. Christ's penetrating question

Matthew 22:45 "If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can He be His son?"

- a. Jewish father would never call his son, “my lord”
- b. Christ’s question leads to fact: David’s son would be worthy of David’s worship
- c. Christ’s opponents crushed:

Matthew 22:46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- 4. Christ’s preferred title: Son of Man... worthy of worship

Matthew 26:63-64 The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Vision of Daniel 7: Son of Man worthy of worship???

- 5. Identity established: Messiah is God incarnate!!

B. The Proclamation of the Lord: Sit Enthroned at My Right Hand

vs. 1 “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand...’”

- 1. “Right hand” = position of ultimate power and authority
 - a. “right hand” blesses the first born son

[Jacob’s blessing of Joseph’s son Ephraim over Manasseh] Genesis 48:18 Joseph said to him, "No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

- b. “right hand” symbolizes God’s power over His enemies

Exodus 15:6 "Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy."

- c. “right hand” also symbolizes close access to the throne, to make requests

Romans 8:34 Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

- d. “right hand” also refers to trusted counselor: “My right hand man”

Matthew 20:20 She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

- e. “right hand” also means power put at your disposal

Isaiah 63:12 [God] sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown

vs. 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

Jesus sits on God's right hand; God is at Jesus' right hand to destroy His enemies!

2. Jesus sits on the right hand of God the Father

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Ephesians 1:19-23 That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Double evidence of the deity of Christ: 1) David calls him "Lord"; 2) God the Father exalted Him to sit at His own right hand and rule from heaven.

III. The Irresistible Advance of the Kingdom

vs. 1 "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

A. The Father's Zeal for the Son's Glory

1. The decree of the Father: your enemies will be crushed!!

Illus. Ancient kings showed their domination of their enemies by having them lie face-down and by putting the sole of their foot on the back of their necks:

Joshua 10:22-25 Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me."²³ So they brought the five kings out of the cave--the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon.²⁴ When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.²⁵ Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight."

A picture of total submission to an all-powerful Lord... God will do this to Satan, only it'll be under OUR feet!

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

The Zeal of God to crush Christ's enemies like the burning of the brightest star!!

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

2. The energetic activity of the Father

- a. "until I MAKE your enemies a footstool..."
- b. the zeal of God Almighty accomplishes the building of Christ's kingdom

Isaiah 9:6-7 *He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

3. Christ's enemies surround Him while the kingdom advances

vs. 2 *"The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies."*

- a. Christ's scepter is the symbol of His reign... it is a righteous scepter

Illus. "rod of your strength" = scepter of a king; like "mzee" stick carried by President of Kenya

Hebrews 1:8 *"Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom."*

- b. the scepter will be extended... the reign of Christ will advance step by step

lit. "The Lord shall send your scepter out from Zion..." (Zion = Jerusalem)

- c. God does the powerful advancing

vs. 2 *The Lord will extend your scepter..."*

- d. He does the advancing right in the face of determined enemies

vs. 2 *"You will reign in the midst of your enemies."*

Christ's kingdom is presently surrounded by enemies: godless governments (including our own), unbelieving people, false religious systems, materialistic forces, worldly philosophies... and behind it all, the devil himself

NEVERTHELESS... Christ reigns in the midst of all of them, and they cannot stop the advance of His scepter!!

B. The Willingness of the Troops (vs. 3)

vs. 3 *Your troops will be willing on your day of battle... [lit. "Your people will be willing in the day of your power"]*

1. The Messiah's "people" are those who love His name, rejoice in His kingdom
2. Since this overall image is one of an advancing scepter in the face of bitter enemies, it's not strange that NIV calls them: TROOPS
3. As Christ reveals His power, His people are willing to serve Him
4. They are characterized by the "majesty of holiness", they are as numerous as the dew on the ground, they are young and therefore energetic for battle

vs. 3 *"Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth."*

This is all those who enlist in the Lord's army, who fight to advance His kingdom, who are willing to lay down their lives to see their King's glory revered to the ends of the earth... These are missionaries, these are prayer warriors, these are simple witnesses, lay people, pastors, redeemed children and aged... all of them ready to die for Christ if need be, that His kingdom may come!

WE ARE WILLING IN ON YOUR DAY OF BATTLE, O LORD!

Gladly we read in vss. 5-7 of Christ's final victory over His enemies:

C. King a Mighty Warrior: The Final Victory Predicted and Described (vs. 5-7)

vs. 5-7 *The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. ⁷ He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.*

1. The Father's power available and active

Christ raised to God's right hand... here God is at Christ's right hand for the battle

2. Kings assembled and crushed in the day of wrath

Revelation 16:16 *Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*

All nations, who oppose Christ and rage against Him, assembled for destruction:

Revelation 19:11-21 *battle of Armageddon, final victory over assembled kings & nations*

3. Final image in Psalm 110: Christ victorious, drinking after the battle

vs. 7 *"He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.*

Victory is complete, Christ reigns over the kingdoms of men!! Deep satisfaction is His at last!!

IV. The Priesthood of the King

vs. 4 *“The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind: ‘You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.’”*

Immensely important verse, only one verse, and the author to Hebrews writes a whole chapter about its significance!! The eternal union of the priesthood and the kingship in one person... Jesus Christ; and an entire new covenant which guarantees our salvation. When we have time to preach through Hebrews we'll develop that fully... now, let's simply look at what Psalm 110 says about this priesthood

A. Established by the Will of the Father

vs. 4 *“The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind...”*

1. Christ's eternal priesthood established by the decree of God
2. Established with an oath: “The Lord has sworn...”
3. Unchangeable: “...and will not change His mind.”
4. Eternal:

“You are a priest forever...”

Writer to Hebrews: Levitical priesthood not eternal... ended with the death of each high priest; Christ's eternal priesthood guaranteed because of His resurrection victory over death

B. In the Order of Melchizedek

1. Melchizedek appears in Genesis 14

Genesis 14:18-20 *Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.”²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

2. Hebrews writer's observations

Hebrews 7:1-3 *This Melchizedek was king of Salem and Priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means ‘king of righteousness,’ then ‘king of Salem’ means ‘king of*

peace.' Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

This man was a priest-king; he simply appears in scripture, as though he had no origin at all; he blesses Abraham, then simply disappears as though he never dies. He is a picture of the eternal king-priest, Jesus Christ

C. Excluded by Old Covenant

1. Three basic offices in Israel: prophet, priest, king
2. A priest could be a prophet

Jeremiah 1:1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

3. A king could be a prophet

Saul was "among the prophets" when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (1 Samuel 19); David was also a prophet... Jesus told us that David wrote Psalm 110 "speaking by the Spirit"; Peter tells us on Pentecost that David was a prophet!

4. BUT a king could never be a priest... the Law of Moses separated them entirely
 - a. when King Saul arrogantly offered the sacrifice Samuel was supposed to, God tore the kingdom away from him and gave it to David
 - b. when godly King Uzziah got prideful in his old age, he arrogantly offered incense in the Lord's temple... God struck him with leprosy, and he was a leper until he died

[Azariah & the priests] 2 Chronicles 26:18 "They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."

5. Therefore, for Jesus, Son of David to be a priest-king, the Law of Moses would have to be set aside by a New Covenant... the very point the author to Hebrews makes

Hebrews 7:11-14 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

This one prophesy in Psalm 110 predicts the removal of the entire Old Covenant for a New Covenant... the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ

He stands before God as our Great High Priest, and offers one eternal sacrifice for us... the sacrifice of His own blood; a perfect, final sacrifice which removes sin forever.

V. Summary and Conclusions

- A. Security in Prophetic writings... this has been planned from eternity past!
- B. Careful exposition
 - 1. One word in vs. 1... “my lord” is the center of Jesus’ proof that the Son of David was God
 - 2. One verse, vs. 4 “a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek” the basis of all of Hebrews 7 proof of a New Covenant
 - 3. Never underestimate the incredible power of one word of Scripture!!
 - 4. Rejoice in careful exposition of Scripture... settle for nothing less!
- C. Certainty of Christ’s final triumph... the Father’s zeal for the Son’s glory guarantees it
- D. Battle not done yet: are you one of Christ’s “willing troops”?

vs. 3 “His troops will be willing in the day of battle.”

Are you a warrior advancing Christ’s kingdom by your witness and your prayers?

- E. Come to Christ
 - 1. Warning to the unbeliever: Christ’s enemies will be destroyed on that final day
 - 2. “But I don’t feel like an enemy”... If you haven’t repented and trusted in Christ alone for salvation, God is your enemy and you are God’s
 - 3. “Will God accept me? I have so many sins!” Yes, but you also have a great high priest, in the order of Melchizedek, who died on the cross as a sacrifice which He offers to the Father on behalf of ANY SINNER who simply repents and believes.