



# Priest & King

JESUS SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

Psalm 110 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 14:53-63

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**Psalm 110** is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament<sup>1</sup>. This Psalm, which we heard today as one of our Scripture lessons, is a conversation between God the Father and His Son, the Messiah. We get to eavesdrop on their conversation in this Psalm.

## Psalm 110

**1** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My **RIGHT HAND** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." . . .

**4** The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a **PRIEST** forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

⇒ In Psalm 110, the Messiah is declared to be the **King** who sits at the **Right Hand of God** the Father. He is in a position of power and authority over all things, especially His enemies<sup>2</sup>.

⇒ In Psalm 110, the Messiah is installed as a **Priest** forever in service to the people of God! Jesus serves as our Great High Priest in the Heavenly Holy of Holies.

Jesus ascended to the **Right Hand of God** after His work of salvation was complete<sup>3</sup>. He obeyed the Father in life; and in death; and on the Third Day, He rose from the dead. The victorious Savior returns to Heaven and takes His

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Mark 12:36, 14:62, Luke 20:41–44, 1 Corinthians 15:25, Hebrews 5:1–6, 6:20, 7:4–7, 7:17–24. Significantly, Jesus identifies the Psalm as Messianic, and He acknowledges it as inspired by Holy Spirit, in Mark 12:36. --> "Christ applies Psalm 110 to Himself in the Gospels. It is quoted or alluded to some 17 times in the New Testament, more than any other Old Testament text, and it ranks among the major Messianic Psalms." Ephesians, T. M. Winger

<sup>2</sup> The "right hand of God" is not a physical location as if the all-powerful, risen, and ascend Lord Jesus is restricted to literally the right hand of God the Father until the Last Day. Rather the "right hand of God" is a figure of speech for God's almighty power, strength, and glory; His omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence! See Exodus 15:6 and Isaiah 41:10 as examples.

<sup>3</sup> You can read the account of the triumphant Savior's return to Heaven in Revelation 5:1-14. This is perhaps one of the grandest chapters in all the Bible. Note how the Savior is described in OT images in 5:5, and in a death/resurrection image in 5:6. Also note how concentric circles of all Creation join in the praise of the Savior and His return to Heaven . . . to the "right hand of God"!

place at the **Right Hand of God** as all of Heaven erupts in praise and thanksgiving<sup>4</sup>!

Psalm 110 teaches us that **Jesus is the King** that God the Father coronates over all things.

The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The Lord will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!”  
Psalm 110:1-2

Psalm 110 teaches us that **Jesus is the King** that God the Father coronates over all things. He is in a position of power, with a scepter, in order to rule. The emphasis is that God the Father has given all power and authority to His Son, and promises to make His enemies a footstool for His feet<sup>5</sup>.

We know that Christ rules over all things; and He works all things for the good of His People. In this Psalm, the enemies of God are **not** crushed and destroyed, but rather they are made to serve the Lord – they are figuratively pictured as a “footstool”.

This reminds us that God does **not** always take evil out of the world or even from our lives, but He promises to make it serve Him and work for our best interest. Our enemies are Satan, the world, and all those who oppose Christ and His Word. The hardships we face can be with relationships, health, or finances. *Most of the time* we have no idea how the Lord makes everything work for good, but He does. That’s His promise. He makes our enemies and our hardships serve Him – they are simply a footstool to Him.

If you are under attack; if you are up against some persecution; if you are patiently enduring a hardship or trial, then be encouraged: the Risen Lord Jesus, who is at the Right Hand of God the Father, is at work in your life and

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<sup>4</sup> Over the next three weeks we will explore some of the ways that the Bible teaches us about Jesus at the “right hand of God.” The “right hand of God” is a way to describe the state of exaltation of the Risen Savior. The “state of exaltation” means that the Risen Savior fully and always uses His divine powers for the sake of His People.

<sup>5</sup> Note the similarities to the incredibly important Psalm 2, where the Messiah is King and Son, given all authority, and warns His enemies to “Kiss the Son” or be destroyed. If you would like some study notes on Psalm 110 and/or Psalm 2, let me know and I can get them for you.

making all things work for your good. That is one of the promises of Psalm 110! It is one of the most basic understandings of the Christian faith!

Psalm 110 *also teaches* us that Jesus is installed and commissioned as our *Great High Priest* when He ascended into Heaven and took His place at the *Right Hand of God*.

The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110:4

Jesus is installed and commissioned as our *Great High Priest* when He ascended into Heaven and took His place at the *Right Hand of God*.

Jesus is a priest in the Order of Melchizedek, not like the Old Testament priests of Aaron and his sons<sup>6</sup>. *Melchizedek* is a mysterious figure in the Old Testament; the book of Hebrews is the only light that is shed on him. *Melchizedek* is a type a Christ, who foreshadows Christ as both King and Priest.

As your High Priest, Jesus has done two things for you.

First, He was given a body by God the Father so that He would be the *perfect sacrifice* for your sins. Jesus is both true God and true Man, who took up our sin and carried it to the cross. He is the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *His once and for all sacrifice is the only sacrifice that God the Father accepts on your behalf*; Jesus tasted death for all men so that all men may live forever<sup>7</sup>. When Jesus died, you were set free from sin, death, and the devil. Through faith in Christ, you are brought into God's family and given unlimited access to God the Father. *Jesus, the High Priest* in the *Order of Melchizedek*, who sits at the Right Hand of God the Father, has accomplished

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<sup>6</sup> "Melchizedek is one of those shadowy persons in Scripture about whom we would like to know more. About 2000 years before Christ's birth, we find him first mentioned in a seemingly inconsequential scene with Abraham. Then there is nothing more until almost 1000 years later when David picks up the name in Psalm 110:4. Now it's almost AD 70 when his name surfaces again in Hebrews 7." Hebrews, R.E. Lauersdorf, PBC, p.68 For today, we are focusing on the comparisons that both Melchizedek and Christ hold **both** offices of King and Priest. If you would like some study materials on Melchizedek, let me know and I can send them to you.

<sup>7</sup> Tragically, the vast majority of people reject Christ and His gifts. ☹

your eternal salvation! There is not one single thing lacking. It is finished and it is complete<sup>8</sup>!

The second thing that Jesus your *High Priest* does is continually serve you at the *Right Hand* of God the Father. As the risen and ascended Lord, Jesus has entered the “Holy of Holies” in Heaven and serves you with the Holy Things of God. The Holy Things are the Holy Scriptures, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. These are the three Holy Things that our *High Priest* has chosen to bring His work of salvation to you.

In Word and Sacrament, God forgives your sins! Jesus covers over your sins with His blood, you are given eternal salvation, and the promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. God promises to never ever remember your sins; and He cleanses your conscience. **In Christ your High Priest, you are made holy --> you are set apart to love God and serve your neighbor.** In faith, you have unlimited and authorized access to the Father in Heaven. You now serve like a priest, along with Christ, as you bring your needs and the needs of others to the Father; and as you bring Christ’s Word and His promises to the people in your life.

Jesus is the only *High Priest* we have; He is our eternal *High Priest* in the *Order of Melchizedek*, who has secured our salvation and serves us the Holy Things of God!

**Psalm 110** is one of the most important Psalms in the Bible. It's a *Messianic Psalm*, which means it teaches us about Christ our Savior. In this Psalm we learn that Jesus, who sits at the *Right Hand* of God the Father Almighty, is both

1. our **Mighty King**, who rules over all things, and makes His enemies and their evil intentions work for the good of His People;
2. and He is our **Great High Priest**, Who earned our salvation by His sacrifice on the cross; and now He continually serves us the Holy Things of God! Amen!

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<sup>8</sup> The Book of Hebrews uses the image of Jesus “sitting” at the right hand of God to show that His work of salvation is finished and complete; in comparison to the OT priests who continually “stood” and repeatedly offered animal sacrifices that could never take away sins. See Hebrews 10:11-14 for this discussion, which is another use of Psalm 110 in the NT!

Lord Jesus, our King and High Priest, we thank you for your Holy Word which teaches us about you. We thank you for Psalm 110 and for teaching us about Your Kingship and Your Priesthood. Help us to trust in your mighty power in our lives to even overcome our enemies and make our difficulties work for good. help us to trust in only your sacrifice for our sins and to rejoice in the eternal salvation you have secured for us! Lord you are merciful King and a faithful High Priest, and for that we rejoice and thank you!

# Psalm 110

1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” 2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb. 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” 5 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 along the way, and so he will lift his head high.

## Mark 14:53-63

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. 55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. 57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” 62 “I AM,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. 64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

# Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was. 5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” 6 And he says in another place, “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” 7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.