

THE MESSIANIC PSALMS

"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." Luke 24:44

On the Road to Emmaus

On the first day of the week after the crucifixion of Christ, two of the Lord's disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus, 7 miles from Jerusalem. As they talked together of all the things which had happened, the Lord Himself drew near and walked with them. But they did not recognise Him. He asked them: *"What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"* Cleophas answered: *"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have you not known the things which happened there in these days?"* He said to them: *"What things?"*

Jesus of Nazareth

So they told him: *"The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet, Mighty in deed and Word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see."*

In All the Scriptures

Then Jesus said to them: *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the Prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His Glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."* Later, as he gave thanks for the food at the table in Emmaus, *"Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him. And they said to one another, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'"*

The Lord Has Risen Indeed!

So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem to find the eleven who were gathered together declaring: *"The Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon!"* They told about the things that had happened on the road and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Psalms Fulfilled

Then Jesus Himself stood amongst them and said to them: *"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."...He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."* Luke 24:13-45

Progressive Revelation

From Genesis to Malachi, we can see the progressive Revelation of the coming Messiah, the Redeemer, the Saviour, the Anointed One, the Son of David, the Suffering Servant, the Prince of Peace. Twenty of the Psalms are identified as Messianic by the New Testament writers. Jesus Himself, declared that the Psalms spoke of Him (Luke 24:44). These include those Psalms that reveal **Christ as King**: Psalm 2:45, 72, 110 & 132; those that speak of the **sufferings of the**

Messiah: Psalm 22, 41, 55 & 69; **the Resurrection** of the Messiah: Psalm 16; and **the Ascension** of the Messiah: Psalm 69:18. Messiah means "*Anointed One*". Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew title: Messiah.

Messianic Prophecies

Written 1000 years before Christ, these Messianic Psalms prophecy that God will declare the Messiah to be His Son. A friend will betray Him. False witnesses will accuse Him. He will be hated without a cause. He will be given vinegar and gall to drink. He will be forsaken by God, scorned and mocked by men, His hands and His feet will be pierced, His clothes will be gambled for, but none of His bones will be broken. He will pray for His enemies. God will not let Him see corruption in the grave. He will rise from the dead. He will ascend into Heaven. His betrayer's office will be given to another. God will place all things under His feet. His enemies will be His footstool. He will be a High Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. He will be the Chief Cornerstone and Eternal Judge.

The Nature of Christ

The Names for God: *Elohim* and *Yahweh* are applied to Christ by the Father Himself: "*Thy Throne, O God is forever and ever.*" (Psalm 2; Psalm 110; Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-9).

The Lord Jesus Christ is described as the Son of God: "*Thou art My Son. This day I have begotten Thee.*" (Psalm 2:7; Hebrews 1:5).

The Messiah shall possess the nature of God and be worthy of worship: "*Let all the angels worship Him.*" (Psalm 97:7; Hebrews 1:6).

The Psalms reveal that the Messiah will be both the Son of God and the Son of Man: "*What is man that You are mindful of him? And the Son of Man that You visit Him? For You have made Him a little lower than the angels? And You have crowned Him with glory and honour. You have made Him to have dominion over the works of Your hands, You have put all things under His feet.*" (Hebrews 1:6-9 quoting from Psalm 8:4-6).

The Work of Christ

The Psalms anticipate the work of the Messiah as Prophet, Priest and King. "***I come to do Thy will O God.***" (Psalm 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:7).

"Your Throne, O God is forever and ever. A sceptre of equity is the sceptre of Your Kingdom." (Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-9).

"The Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool... rule in the midst of Your enemies... You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek... He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations..." Psalm 110:1-6.

The Messianic Psalm 110 is quoted seven times in the New Testament, by the Lord Jesus, by the apostles, Peter and Paul: Matthew 22:43-44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42-43; Acts 2:34-35; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 1:13 & 10:12-13).

The Rejection of the Messiah

In contradiction to the popular theory of Dispensational Pre-millennialism, which views the Jews' rejection of the Messiah as an unexpected setback requiring the interruption of the prophetic calendar with the Church Age, the rejection of the Messiah is consistently prophesied throughout the Old Testament Scriptures, including in the Psalms. The middle chapter of the Bible: Psalm 118 declares: "***The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone.***" Psalm 118:22. As Christ entered Jerusalem in His triumphal entry, the crowds waved palm fronds, singing "*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Highest*", in fulfilment of Psalm 118. Yet those same crowds showed how fickle they were by, days later, screaming "*Crucify Him, Crucify Him! We have no king but caesar! Release Barabbas! Crucify Christ!*"

Zeal for God's House

When the Lord entered the Temple, He made a whip and chased out the Jewish money-changers. Recording this, the Apostle John quotes Psalm 69:9: *"Zeal for Your House has consumed Me."* (John 2:17).

Betrayed

At the Last Supper the Lord quoted Psalm 41:9: *"Even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me"* (John 13:18), to refer to the betrayal of Judas.

The Suffering and Death of the Messiah

The most complete and detailed description of the Crucifixion is in Psalm 22, written 1000 years before the event. On the Cross the Lord quoted Psalm 22:1: *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me..."* (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:34).

Psalm 22 describes how they would pierce His hands and His feet and gamble for His robe (Psalm 22:16-18).

Psalm 22 describes the sufferings of the Messiah on the Cross: *"They gape at Me... I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a pot shard, and My tongue clings to my jaws; ...the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots..."* Psalm 22:12-18 (Matthew 27:36-44).

The Resurrection of the Messiah

"For you will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." Psalm 16:10.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter applies this passage in Psalm 16, to the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. *"Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet 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, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the Resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus, God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. 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. For David did not ascend into the Heavens, but he says himself: The Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."* Acts 2:29-36

The Ultimate Triumph of the Messiah

"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying: 'Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us'. He who sits in the Heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: 'Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree; the Lord has said to Me, You are My Son. Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. Now, therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed you judges of the earth, serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." Psalm 2:1-12

King of kings and Lord of lords

In the Psalms we read of the Mission and Message of the Messiah, of the work and witness of our Lord Jesus Christ, of His nature, His rejection, betrayal, suffering, death, Resurrection, Ascension and final victory over all, when all His enemies will be made as a footstool under His feet.

You may know the Messianic Psalms – but do you know the Messiah?

You may know the Shepherd's Psalm – but do you know the Good Shepherd?

Our Lord Jesus Christ declared that His sheep hear His voice, they follow Him and He knows them. Does the Lord know you?

Do you hear His voice?

Are you obeying His voice?

Are you faithfully following Him?

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See also:

The Imprecatory Psalms

Missions in the Psalms

Worship in the Psalms