

PSALM 110

By Mike Burnham

This Psalm, in the beginning, claims to be a direct revelation from God, *the LORD said or The oracle (voice) of Yahweh*. This is the only Psalm where this phrase is used and it's used twice, but many times by the prophets in announcing the messages which they have received from God. It sets this Psalm apart from all the others. This is a prophetic Psalm concerning the exaltation of the humanity of Christ to King and Priest.

Verse 1....*The LORD (Jehovah) said unto my Lord*....The first word "LORD" is in all caps and means; 3068 Yehovah- Jehovah (Yahweh) "*the existing One*"; the proper name of the one true God; unpronounced except as Adonay.

The second "Lord" (adown) means here master. It is a title of respect and honor, by which the speaker recognizes the superior rank of the person addressed. *Jehovah said unto my master*: (cf. Mat. 22:41-46 --- The Pharisees, and all the religious leaders, had the wrong conception of the Messiah, thinking of Him as a human warrior rather than as a divine Saviour, and because of this they failed to see Him in Jesus. They were looking for a Son of David who would inherit the military prowess of David. Jesus therefore reminds them, using this Psalm, that if David himself speaks of the Messiah as Lord, then the Messiah must be more than David's physical descendant, but is in fact greater than David. He, though of Davidic descent, is also of divine origin. The son of David was also his God).

Sit thou at my right hand....The person addressed is acknowledged by the Psalmist, David, as his superior, and is invited by Jehovah to share the honor of His throne, in the place of authority and power. Only one person was ever asked to sit at God's right hand, the *Man* Christ Jesus (Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; 1Pe. 3:22). Here, as in

Philippians 2:9-11, we see the exaltation of the *humanity* of Christ.

until I make thine enemies thy footstool....The Father, working through Christ, to bring His enemies completely under Christ's subjection, even the last enemy, which is death (1 Cor. 15:20-28). An ancient custom was for a conquering monarch to have the images of defeated kings carved on his footstool. Then, seated upon his throne, he would put his feet on the stool, signifying the trampling underfoot of his enemies. Some of these "*footstools*" have been found by Archaeologists.

Verse 2...The Psalmist now speaks to him who is to sit at God's right hand.

The LORD (Jehovah) shall send the rod of thy strength....The "*rod of thy strength*" is the symbol of the *resistless power*, with which Jehovah will endue the one who sits at His right hand.

out of Zion...A mountain of Jerusalem and another name for the holy city. The ruling power of Christ is to go forth out of Jerusalem.

rule in the midst of thine enemies...He will stretch out His dominion over His enemies on every side. The word used for *Rule* (to tread down; subjugate) has a certain sternness to it, which suits the contrast between the enforced obedience of enemies in this verse and the glad response of volunteers in the next.

Verse 3...*Thy people shall be willing....*The Spirit of God breathes zeal and courage into the hearts of the people, as they gladly devote themselves to His service. The word *willing* carries the idea of a *freewill offering*. His people will voluntarily, freely, offer themselves as living sacrifices.

In the day of thy power...The day He goes to war.

in the beauties of holiness...Either the beauties of true spiritual worship which His people will give unto Him, or, they will be like ornaments, shining in the splendor of holiness, clad in the white robes of the righteousness of God in Christ.

thou hast the dew of thy youth...I think this is a figure of speech referring to the freshness and vigor of Christ continuing youth. Some commentators say that it is referring to thy people who are youthful and as numberless and bright as the drops of the morning dew.

Verse 4...*The LORD has sworn*...it is irrevocable, for "*He will not repent.*" Here is the second of the two direct oracles from God. Also here we have the two immutable things which make it impossible for God to lie, His promise and His oath (Heb. 6:13, 17-18). Something God cannot do, I expect because of His Holiness, is change His promises or oaths. Once He utters them they are unchangeable. This is why it is important to know whether His promises are conditional, like to Israel at the mount (if you do these things, I will do certain things) or unconditional, like to Abraham. If unconditional, they will never be changed.

Thou art a Priest forever...Not like ordinary priests, a priest for a few years or a lifetime, but for ever. Why? Because "*He ever liveth to make intercession for us*" (Heb. 7:25).

after the order of Melchizedek...The significance of this is best explained, I believe, by reading the scriptures (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 5:5-10; 6:19-7:28). We also see in the priesthood of Melchizedek the combined offices of Priest and King as they were to be in Christ (Messiah).

Verse 5...*The Lord* (adonay), I believe, refers to Jehovah, as in Psalm 16:8. He is the invisible power.

at thy right hand...*thy* is Christ (Messiah). Jehovah stands at Messiah's right hand to *strike through*, crush, or destroy the leaders with their armies. This, I believe, takes place at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 19:19; Psa. 2:2,10).

Verse 6...*He shall judge among the heathen*...Jehovah and Messiah act as one in their judgment among the heathens..

among the heathen...not all the heathen. It appears some of the

heathen will be spared this death and carnage that is to take place in the future. This is consistent with other prophecies (Zech. 8:20-23; 14:16-19).

He shall fill the places with dead bodies...As after a battle, the field is strewn with corpses (Rev. 19:17-21).

wound the heads over many countries...(v-5).

Verse 7...*He shall drink of the brook...*He would not grow weary in His pursuit of victory, but is refreshed by the Spirit of God (Psa. 3:3).

Therefore shall he lift up his head...He shall overcome His enemies and rise above them in glory, power, and majesty (Psa. 27:6; Jer. 52:31-33).