

THE HIGH KING OF HEAVEN: Beholding Our Beloved in Psalm 110

I. WELCOME / TEXT / PRAYER

- A. Welcome
- B. Text: Psalm 110: A Psalm of David (the king)

The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai), “Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

²The LORD (Yahweh) will extend Your (Adonai’s) mighty scepter from Zion, *saying*, “Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”

³Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; in holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to you *as* the dew.

⁴The LORD has sworn, and he will not change his mind (lit. be sorry, regret his decision), “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁵The Lord (Adonai) is at Your (Yahweh’s) right hand:

He (Adonai) will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.⁶ He will judge among the nations, He will fill *the earth* with corpses; he will shatter the head over a broad country.

⁷He will drink from the brook by the wayside; therefore he will lift up *his* head.

- C. Opening Prayer

II. INTRODUCTION

- A. Christian Eye Care: A Review

- A good (healthy) eye leads to a body full of light (Matt. 6:22)
- A good eye is an eye fixed on Christ, especially as he is revealed in Scripture
- Sanctification is by Seeing: As we behold the Lord in Scripture, we rejoice, worship, pray, and (out of love) yield ourselves in obedience to him, and so become holy, sanctified

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. – 2 Cor. 3:18

- Therefore, Christians are Lovesick Saints: Ever in search of fresh visions of their Beloved

“I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem: If you find my beloved, this is what you must tell him: Tell him I am sick (faint) with love!” – Song 5

B. So today, let's go looking for our Beloved in Psalm 110

- A Royal (or Messianic) Psalm: A psalm in which the author, inspired by the Spirit, speaks not only the king(s) of Israel, but also of the Messiah, the divine-human King of the whole World!
- There are about 25 Messianic psalms, containing over 70 specific references to the Person and Work of Christ
- In this Psalm, we see TEN beautiful things about our Beloved, things that, by God's grace, will quicken our love for him, fill our bodies with light, and cause us to leave this place more holy than when we came in!

III. TEN THINGS WE LEARN ABOUT OUR BELOVED AS WE BEHOLD HIM PSALM 110

A. #1: Our Beloved is a Divine Being, and therefore worthy of being our Lord

- The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai) . . .
- Our text gives us two Divine Persons: Yahweh (the covenant keeping redeemer of his people) and Adonai (the king of his people)
- This is a major OT text hinting at the mystery of the Holy Trinity
- In the NT, Jesus Christ identifies himself as the Messiah, and the Messiah as the Divine Adonai!

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "*He is the Son of David.*" ⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David, in the Spirit, call Him 'Lord,' saying: ⁴⁴ 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand Until I place Your enemies beneath Your feet"'?" ⁴⁵ If, then, David calls Him 'Lord,' how can He be his Son?" ⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer Him a word; nor from that day on did anyone dare to question Him further. – Mt. 22

- Application: When we SEE his divine nature and prerogatives, it is natural (and fitting) to submit ourselves to him, calling him Lord (e.g. of Paul)

B. #2: Our Beloved is seated at God's right hand, with all authority in heaven and earth

- "Sit at My right hand (until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.)"
- This verse is referenced 18 times in the NT! Why so important?
- Because it points to one of the greatest of all NT "mysteries": The heavenly (mediatorial) reign of the Lord Jesus Christ
- HSL: The stages of this reign, the purpose of this reign:

¹⁵ Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." ³ ¹⁶ He who has believed and been baptized will be saved; but he who has not believed will be condemned. ¹⁷ . . . ¹⁹ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the signs that followed. – Mark 15

- Application: We've got work to do, he Omnipotence has got our back!

C. #3: Our Beloved will continue to rule over Heaven and Earth until God places ALL of his enemies beneath his feet

- "(Sit at My right hand), *until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.*"
- This phrase tells us the duration of Christ's heavenly reign: It lasts till God puts ALL of his enemies under foot (e.g., of Joshua and Canaanite kings)
- 1 Cor. 15 tells us MUCH more:

²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death *came* by a man, so also the resurrection of the dead *comes* by a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, *and* after that those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to God the Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has placed all His enemies beneath His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed is death . . .

(⁵⁰ Now this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ And when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."¹¹)

²⁷ For, "He has placed all things in subjection beneath His feet."⁴ But when He says "All things are placed in subjection," *it is* evident that the One who subjected all things to Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

- App: Here is the Blessed Hope of the Church. Cultivate it often!

D. #4: Our Beloved is ruling from the Jerusalem above

- ² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter (or: send forth the rod of your strength) from Zion . . .
- Jewish Expectation: An earthly reign of the Messiah
- The NT mystery: A heavenly reign!

³³ Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, (Jesus) has poured forth this that you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says, '*The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*'"¹⁴ ³⁶ Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made Him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you have crucified." – Acts 2

²² You have not come to a mountain that can be touched . . . but you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to thousands upon thousands of angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn *whose names are* recorded in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better things than *that of* Abel. – Heb. 12

- Application: Keeping looking up, to where you are ALREADY seated (Col. 3:1f)

E. #5: Even now, our Beloved is ruling in the midst of his enemies

- The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, *saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!”*
- He is ruling over *us*: as Head over all things to the Church (Eph. 1:27)
- He is ruling over the unfolding the rest of world history (Rev. 5)
- He is ruling for our good, the good of the Church (Rom. 8:28)
- App: So, believe in our King’s absolute sovereignty, and take comfort!

F. # 6: Our Beloved is a Heavenly Commander whose soldiers are eager to follow him into battle

- ³ Your people will volunteer (lit. be freewill offerings) freely in the day of your power (or, army) . . .
- This is the glory of the NC: It liberates the believer from slavery to sin, creating in him a heart eager follow his Commander in Chief into battle!
- Note: No Christian simply DECIDES to follow him into battle: It is only when we SEE him, and HEAR him calling, that we volunteer freely
- E.g. Isaiah, Paul
- App: Keep looking for your Commanding, and listening for his marching orders! (Eph. 2:10)

G. #7: Our Beloved has LOTS of such soldiers!

- . . . in holy array, from the womb of the dawn, your youth are to you *as* the dew.
- They are as dew drops sparkling on a field of grass at dawn: a Great Multitude (Rev. 7)
- They are in holy array: Clothed with the righteousness of Christ
- They come from the womb of the dawn: That is, they come from another world, a world up above, and a world up ahead, and are “wet” with the powers of the age to come (Heb. 6:5)!
- App: Be not discouraged; you are NOT alone! There is a world-wide 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal!

H. #8: Our Beloved King is also an Eternal High Priest, ever-living to make intercession for us

- ⁴The LORD has sworn, and he will not change his mind (lit. be sorry, regret his decision),
“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”
- MP: The Messiah is not only a heavenly King who rules over us, but also a heavenly High Priest—an eternal one—who secures the forgiveness of all of our sins, and grants us entrance into the holiest of all: into heaven itself (now, at death, and forever in the World to Come)!

²³Moreover, the *former* priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing on. ²⁴But He, because He continues forever, holds an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost (perfectly, completely; or, forever) those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a High Priest, *one who is* holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, and exalted above the *very* heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests do, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s; for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the Law appoints as high priests men who have weakness; but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever. – Heb. 7

- App: Seeing him there, in the holiest of all, interceding for us, we remain confident of the forgiveness of our sins, and strong against condemnation.

I. #9: Our Beloved will one day come again to rescue his army of love, and finally place all his enemies under his feet

- He (Adonai) will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.⁶ He will judge among the nations, He will fill *the earth* with corpses; he will shatter the head over a broad country.
- There is a (single) Day of Wrath—and Rescue—coming
- In it he will judge evil (kings and nations) and evil angels (the head over a broad country)
- The NT illuminates this Day of the Lord in MANY places: Here’s one:

³Brothers, we should always give God thanks for you, as is only fitting,¹ seeing that your faith is growing beyond measure, and that the love of each one of you towards all the rest is increasing more and more. ⁴As a result, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all the persecutions and afflictions you are enduring. ⁵This is an evident indication of the righteous judgment of God, so that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed² you are presently suffering; ⁶since, in God’s sight, it is a righteous thing to repay those who trouble you with affliction,⁷ but to give relief to you who are afflicted (and to us as well) when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,³ ⁸in flaming fire⁴ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These will suffer the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when, in that Day, He comes to be glorified in⁵ His saints and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. – 2 Thess. 1

- App: Here again is the Blessed Hope: Coming, Judgment, Eternal Glory

J. #10: Our Beloved is refreshed at the Brook by the wayside, and so marches on to final victory

- ⁷ He will drink from the brook by the wayside; therefore, he will lift up *his* head.
- At every stage of his Messianic ministry—whether upon the earth or in heaven above—Christ draws upon the life and power of the Father to fulfill his mission. (E.g., John 4: “I have food to eat (and water to drink) of which you know nothing” – but not any more!)
- We too are called to drink: “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” – Rev. 22

IV. CONCLUSION / APPLICATION

A. Focus: Your people will volunteer freely in the Day of Your power

B. That day is TODAY: There’s a world of hurt, need, and potential ministry out there! But how will the High King of Heaven get his people to volunteer for it?

C. NOT by using legalistic pastors to beating up their conscience with guilt!

D. But RATHER by SEEING the High King, and HEARING his call: “Who will go for me; whom shall I send?”

E. The good example of Rachel Scott