

## CHRIST OF THE PSALMS

### INTRODUCTION

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:10-11** *“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”*

The prophets anticipated the coming of Christ.

- B. **Luke 24:44** *“Then He 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.’”*

Jesus asserted that the Old Testament foretold of Him, including the Psalms.

That book of prayer and of praise is also a book of prophecy.

### I. CHRIST THE CREATOR

- A. **Psalms 102:25-27** *“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”*

The changeless nature of the Creator is extolled in this psalm.

- B. **Hebrews 1:8<sub>a</sub>, 10-12** *“But **to the Son** He says... ‘You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.’”*

New Testament inspiration applies these words to the Son of God, identifying Jesus as the Creator.

## II. CHRIST INCARNATE

A. **Psalm 40:6-8** *“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, ‘Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.’”*

David spoke of One who was to come.

B. **Hebrews 10:5-10** *“Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come — in the volume of the book it is written of Me — to do Your will, O God.”’ Previously saying, ‘Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them’ (which are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

The writer to the Hebrews connected this thought to the Christ. Quoting from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, it is said that “a body” was “prepared”, and the appropriate setting in which to apply this was “when He came into the world”.

## III. CHRIST OPPOSED

A. **Psalm 69:1-4** *“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.”*

No one was ever more “*hated without cause*” than Jesus. This one phrase cries out for an application beyond its writer David.

- B.** **John 15:18-25** *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”*

The Lord applied these words to Himself.

#### **IV. CHRIST WELCOMED**

- A.** **Psalms 118:25-26** *“Save now, I pray, O Jehovah; O Jehovah, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of Jehovah! We have blessed you from the house of Jehovah.”*

The psalmist requested salvation of Jehovah and pronounced blessings on the One who would come in His name.

- B.** **John 12:12-13** *“A great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: ‘Hosanna! “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The King of Israel!”*”

The multitude fulfilled this prophecy, lauding the Savior as He entered Jerusalem for the final time. They cried, "Hosanna!", meaning, "Save now, I pray".

## V. CHRIST PROSECUTED

- A. **Psalm 2:1-2** *"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against Jehovah and against His Anointed."*

The psalm prophesied of God's anointed, that is the Christ, being plotted against by all those in positions of authority.

- B. **Acts 4:23-28** *"Being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: "Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ." For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.'"*

The apostles recognized the fulfillment of this prophetic psalm in the actions of Herod, Pilate, and the peoples of both Israel and the Gentiles.

## VI. CHRIST CRUCIFIED

- A. **Psalm 22:16** *"Dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet."*

Of all the Messianic prophecies in the Psalms, this is the most direct and obvious. Its entire content is directly applicable to Christ's crucifixion, but that

can be examined at greater length another time. For now, consider just one point.

- B. **John 20:27** *“He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’”*

Jesus’ death on the cross included Him being pierced through His extremities.

## VII. CHRIST RISEN

- A. **Psalms 16:8-11** *“I have set Jehovah always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

The resurrection of Christ was anticipated by David.

- B. **Acts 2:22-32** *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ 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.”*

Peter applied this text to the grave’s inability to retain our Lord.

- C.** **Acts 13:34-39** *“And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’ Therefore He also says in another Psalm: ‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’ For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*

Paul applied the prophecy to Jesus and concluded Christ is the justifier.

## **VIII. CHRIST ENTHRONED**

- A.** **Psalms 110:1** *“Jehovah said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”*

David’s Lord was invited by Jehovah to take a seat at His right hand.

- B.** **Matthew 22:41-45** *“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The Son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How then does David in the Spirit call Him “Lord,” saying: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? If David then calls Him “Lord,” how is He his Son?’ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”*

Jesus exposed the Pharisees ignorance in that they did not comprehend how the Anointed One could be both David's descendant and his Lord. Jesus knew, though.

- C. **Acts 2:32-36** *"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."*

Peter preached that Christ's resurrection and ascension fulfilled David's prophecy.

- D. **Hebrews 1:13** *"But to which of the angels has He ever said: 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'?"*

The inspired penman to the Hebrews applied this psalm to Jesus, demonstrating His supremacy over angels.

## IX. CHRIST ORDAINED

- A. **Psalms 110:4** *"Jehovah has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.'"*

David declared the Lord would be a permanent priest according to Melchizedek's order, rather than through descent from Aaron of the tribe of Levi.

- B. **Genesis 14:18-20** *"Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And he gave him a tithe of all."*

The prophecy probably seemed strange considering how little is said of Melchizedek previously, just three verses identifying him as king and priest.

- C. **Hebrews 5:5-11**; *“Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek,’ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”*

The Hebrew writer dealt extensively with this theme, mentioning Melchizedek seven more times over the following two chapters.

## X. CHRIST THE FOUNDATION

- A. **Psalms 118:22-23** *“The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was Jehovah’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.”*

This psalm prophesied that Jehovah would build everything on one overlooked and even considered worthless by those in the know.

- B. **Matthew 21:42-46** *“Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes”? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. But when*

*they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.”*

Jesus applied this prophecy to Himself as the Stone.

- C.** **Acts 4:10-12** *“Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

Peter also applied the prophecy to Jesus.

- D.** **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4-8** *“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”*

Paul and Peter both explain how we who are Christians, who have not rejected the Chief Cornerstone, are built upon our Foundation.