

LOOKING FORWARD AND LOOKING BACK Sunday School- March 16, 2014

Unifying Topic: PETER'S REPORT

Lesson Text

I. A Priestly King To Come (Psalm 110:1-4)

II. The Priestly King Rejected (Acts 2:22-24)

III. The Priestly King Reigns (Acts 2:29-31)

The Main Thought: He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell neither his flesh did see corruption. (Acts 2:31 KJV)

Unifying Principle: People need to understand what they have received as a legacy for them to perceive any value in it. How can people correlate tradition and legacy? Peter interpreted the coming of Jesus, which the followers witnessed, as Jesus fulfillment of the prophecy for a Savior descended from the line of David.

Lesson Aim: Adults should observe the traditions within their own families, local communities, and most of all their individual churches.

Life aim: To encourage the believers to give their testimonies of the saving power of Jesus.

110:1 The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

110:2 The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

110:3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

110:4 The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 90:6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

HISTORY:

This Psalm cannot refer to any person in history except Christ; yet it was written 1000 years before Christ. This Psalm written by David is quoted more frequently in the New Testament than any other Psalm. This is one of those Messianic psalms which is a psalm concerning the Messiah that has its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The Psalm presents two pictures of the Messiah from the past—His exaltation as King (vv.1-3) and His consecration as Priest (v.4)—and a third picture from the future, His victory over the enemies of God (vv.5-7). The Psalm does not speak at all of David, but only of David's Lord.

LESSON:

Psalm 110:1-4 A Priestly King To Come

110:1 **The Lord said unto my Lord,** — The Psalm is written by David under the inspiration of the Spirit. This Psalm is spoken in the Old Testament before the promise comes to pass; before the time of Christ. Here "*The Lord says to my Lord*" means Jehovah or Yahweh says to David's Lord who is Adonai, who is Lord over and controls David; whom David is a servant of. The Messiah was addressed with the divine title of "Lord." We know that David was King over the nation Israel but he was not called to ascend into heaven (Acts 2:34).

110:1b Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Messiah's home in the beginning was heaven. He had come all the way from heaven to earth on a mission, and now that His mission is over and God tells Jesus to sit at My right hand. Only the Messiah could sit at the right hand of Jehovah God and this could only happen after He had died and had been resurrected by the Father. His work was complete; His task was accomplished; everything the Father required Him to do was finished, and Jesus was now exalted and seated in the place of divine honor again; the Son at God's right hand occupying the seat of victory. What had occurred? Jesus humbled Himself, became obedient unto death, even to the point of the death on the cross (Phil.2:8) — That's His Perfect Performance! He has ascended into heaven and now He is exalted upon the throne that will never end. 1 Cor.15:25-26 says *"For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."* Jesus has defeated sin and death on the cross, and in the final days He will defeat Satan and all evil. All power in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus by the Father. God is the One who subdues these enemies, making them subject to the authority of the Davidic King. A *"footstool"* is where you rest your feet when they are tired. Christ's enemies will serve as footstools under His feet, where He subdues and destroys them.

110:2 The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. The psalmist shows that out of Zion the Lord will send the rod of His strength; His mighty scepter to rule even in the midst of Jesus' enemies; the enemies who oppose Him. The original rod or scepter was given to Moses by God as a rod of power. However, this rod of Jesus is even more powerful than that. His authority as King has come! He subdues and rules in the midst of them.

110:3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The Messiah's people meaning Israel, will be willing to serve the King of kings in the day of His power. We know that God is all powerful; Almighty, but there is a day of His power that will stand out and be seen by all to come! People will be "willing," not "compelled or forced" to submit. The Messiah can only rule over *"willing"* hearts. Their ability will be like none other because of His power in them. If David is not talking about a time that had not come in his day, but in a future day, he's talking about either all we've viewed in the New Testament bible where God demonstrated His power through men and women or a day of power in the Millennium, we have not seen from His mighty people before. In the beauty of His holiness means with purity and holiness of heart God's people in the early morning: has the dew of His youth—a freshness and moistness in the Spirit like the early morning dew. *"For the kingdom of God is not in word (idle talk) but in power"* 1 Cor.4:20. They will be as freewill offerings unto the Master!

110:4 The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. We have seen the Messiah, Jesus Christ exalted to sit on the throne as King with strength and power, but now He is exalted as Priest after the order of Melchizedek. God, Jehovah has sworn, and it cannot be disputed. We first learn of Melchizedek in Gen.14:17-20 when Abram had rescued his nephew Lot from king Chedorlaomer of Elam, who had taken Lot from Sodom. After the rescue, Melchizedek brought Abram bread and wine and pronounced a profound blessing upon him. Abram then in turn gave Melchizedek a tenth of all his earnings. The conclusion was that Melchizedek had blessed, received, and vanished. His name means *"king of righteousness"*; He served as priest/king of Salem He mysteriously appeared on the scene in Abram's life and blessed him. Melchizedek was a priest, servant of God before there were any Jewish priests or religion; before Aaron had come into office. He was a King before there were any kings thought of. He had no father or mother. There was no date of birth, or mention of death. In the Old Testament the office of priest was separate from king, but in the order of Melchizedek, he occupies both offices. Melchizedek's office was exceptional; none preceded or succeeded him. This is the order or office of the Messiah. He is both King and High Priest! ¹The King-priest, Jesus Christ has been here and left His blessing upon the believing seed, and now He sits in

¹ <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/psalms/110-4.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

glory in His complete character, atoning for us by the merit of His blood, and exercising all power on our behalf; and still our High Priest.

Acts 2:22-24 The Priestly King Rejected

2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:— This was the time when 120 in the Upper Room had received the gift of the Holy Spirit's power with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Peter had gotten up to preach concerning those that had received this gift spoken of by the prophet Joel in the Old Testament. God has poured out His Spirit upon flesh and Peter quotes Joel's prophesy. He tells the men of Israel to hear these words, for he was speaking of Jesus of Nazareth whom God approved; a man whose mission was from God. He also lets them know that God through Jesus brought forth signs and wonders in their midst. They had all witnessed him speak and watched His life; even seen Him raise the dead.

2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:— Their own Messiah had been crucified and slain at the hand of the Jewish nation and the Roman government. It was by their hands, however, all that participated in putting the Lord Jesus to death were unconsciously fulfilling the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. In God's prearranged plan, He allowed men to use the Roman government to nail Him to the cross and murder Him. He knew exactly what men would do to His Son. He knew they would kill His Son. It was God's purpose that the Messiah should suffer death for us. It was God's plan for Jesus to die to save us. However, no matter how far a person looks into the future, God sees it and knows it.

2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. Then God released Jesus from His horrible death and brought Him back to life again, for death could not hold Him. There were three points in this scripture:

1. *God raised up Christ from the dead*—God knew that the very best way to save man from death was through the resurrection of His own Son from the dead—Foreknowledge.
2. *The resurrection of Christ loosed the pains of death*—The word "*pain*" (*odinas*) means birth pangs. For the unbeliever, there is great pain in death, pain such as experienced by a woman in giving birth. But man no longer has to suffer the pain of death nor fear suffering through it. Christ has conquered and abolished death; made it completely harmless.
3. *It is impossible for death to hold Christ*—Jesus was the sinless, perfect, righteous, and Ideal man and death cannot hold the Ideal, righteous, perfect, and sinless man.

They should have been convicted of rejecting Christ the King at that point because of Peter being full of the Holy Ghost.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON

2: 25-28 are the verses David had spoken in Psalm 16:8-10 which displayed David's hope in God. Therefore, Peter appeals to them that these prophetic words were fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth and in no one else. What David said was a prophecy of the Lord's experience upon earth. (1) Christ was raised to reign with God. (2) Christ was raised to deliver His soul from hell and (3) Christ was raised to deliver His flesh from corruption. The Messiah whom David promised was in fact Jesus of Nazareth. Nothing could dissuade the Lord Jesus Christ from keeping His destined appointment with death. Faith in God brings gladness to the inner man and the expression of joy to the lips.

BACK TO THE LESSON

Acts 2:29-32 The Priestly King Reigns

2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Peter lets these men know that the prophecy cannot be about David, because David had died. He was both dead and buried. His grave was in a famous place near them in Jerusalem.

2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;— David was a prophet of God and God had revealed to him that the Messiah would come through his line. God had sworn an oath to him that one of his descendants would sit upon his throne; one from the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh.

2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Therefore, what David was doing was predicting the resurrection of Christ. Jesus Christ the Messiah was descended in the flesh from David. David had prophesied in Psalms 16:10 that Jesus' body would not decay. That He would rise again. God allowed David to see this before Christ's resurrection—Christ's soul would not be left in hell neither His flesh see corruption.

2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. The point is that the priestly king had come; had been rejected of men, but now the priestly king reigns. God had raised Jesus up and many people had witnessed this fact; they had seen Jesus after He was presumed dead.

SUMMARY:

The Father refers to His Son as Lord. The Father assures the Son that His enemies will be humbled. It will extend from Jerusalem. People will serve God willingly. The Father vows to establish His Son's priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (**Ps. 110:1-4**).

Peter stresses two points: (1) The Messiah was crucified by His foes—the Jewish nation and the Roman government, but always by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. (2) The Messiah was resurrected by His Father. It was impossible for death to keep Jesus in its grip. Peter confirms that David himself had died and was buried. David never ascended to heaven to sit on his throne; so therefore, in scripture David is referring to the resurrected Jesus Christ being raised and exalted to sit on the throne at God's right hand. God had sworn an oath that out of David's loins would be a descendant to sit on his throne. Jesus' soul would not be left in hell nor His flesh to experience corruption. He was raised up and people witnessed His appearance (**Acts 2:22-32**).

APPLICATION:

The orchestration of Jesus' life was foreknowledge of God Himself to get the very purpose intended. If that was for Jesus, do you think He knows about our lives and our purpose? In looking forward in our lives, God has already seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of our past, and nothing is compared to what He sees for us in the future with His Son. It is everlasting! The report is already written in the Book!