

Christ Our Victorious King and Advocate

Psalm 110

Sunday, August 17th, 2025

By Ryan Perry

Scripture

Psalm 110

[1] *The LORD says to my Lord:*

***“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”***

**[2] *The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.***

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

**[3] *Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.***

**[4] *The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”***

**[5] *The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.***

**[6] *He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
he will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.***

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

Let's Pray.

Introduction

Story

One of my favorite animated movies is “The Incredibles.” And there are two scenes that have always stuck out to me, even though they are both only 10-15 seconds.

The first is when Mr. Incredible comes home from work. He hates his job, he's frustrated about his day, and as he gets out of the car, he slips on a skateboard, puts a dent in the roof of his car.

He's so upset about this that he slams the car door, breaking the window. By this time he's so frustrated that he literally picks up his car and is about to throw it (because if you haven't seen it, he's actually a superhero trying secretly to live as a normal person).

But there is this little kid on the sidewalk who sees this, and is sitting there with his mouth open in awe of because this mammoth of a man could pick up this car. Mr. Incredible, realizing this, gently puts the car down and walks inside.

Then, a few scenes later, he gets home from work again, still hating his job and feeling frustrated. He gets out of the car, and the kid is there again. This time Mr. Incredible is annoyed and looks at the kid and says, **"So what are you waiting for?"** And the child replies, **"I don't know, something amazing! I guess."**

History of Psalms and Intertestamental Period

In a previous sermon I mention that the book of Psalms came together in its final form sometime in the 5th century BC, after the Israelites had returned from being in exile in Babylon.

This was a period, where yes, they rebuilt the temple, but there was no king in Israel, and they were forced to live under the rule of foreign powers. They were ruled by the Macedonian Empire, the Seleucid Empire, the Ptolemaic Kingdom, and various other kingdoms until they came under Roman control in 63 BC.

All the while, they faced hardships, oppression, and persecution as various emperors tried to eradicate them because they wouldn't worship their gods or conform to the customs of these foreign powers.

So the Israelites were understandably frustrated and were asking questions like, "Is God ever going to give us our land back? Is he going to give us the forever king that he promised to David? Is he going to destroy all of the evil around us? Is he going to fulfill his promise of a Messiah that he made all the way back in the book of Genesis?"

In short, they were waiting and wondering if God was going to do something amazing.

The Psalm

This is where Psalm 110 comes in. Now, like Psalm 2, which I preached through in May, this psalm is considered a royal psalm. The whole purpose of these royal Psalms is to give God's people hope that "yes," a forever king and Messiah is coming, and he will conquer on their behalf.

Psalm 110 is no different. However, it's unique because it is the only Psalm that both declares that the Messiah is our victorious king and our Priest (Advocate).

Which means that he not only fights for us, but he's the one who stands between us and God the Father and makes us acceptable in his sight.

So as we walk through this psalm today, we will look at all of the prophetic statements that its author, David, makes, and will see how the New Testament is abundantly clear that these promises only find their full fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

And my hope for each of us today is similar to what the original readers would have been looking for in this Psalm.

That we will be able to put our full hope in Christ as our only Victorious King and Advocate, even as we deal with the pain, hardship, and evil that exists within a fallen world that isn't our home.

So let's begin by looking at the first reason for hope that David gives us within this Psalm (just so you know, there will be 4).

Christ is our King

Psalm 110:1-2

[1] The LORD (Jehovah) says to my Lord (Adon: sovereign ruler):

***“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”***

[2] The LORD sends forth from Zion

your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Now, you might be thinking, “How can I know for sure that this is talking about Christ and not some other earthly king?”

Remember, this is David talking here, and he is saying that the LORD (Jehovah), that's God, is saying something to “my Lord,” and the second Lord is the word “**Adon**”, which means sovereign ruler.

Now, it is true that this word could be talking about either a human or divine ruler. But when David wrote this, he was the human sovereign ruler of Israel, which means he wouldn't call this person “**my Lord**” if he were talking about another earthly king.

So this sentence only makes sense if he is talking about a divine ruler. Also, when we look in the New Testament, Jesus makes this same argument to the Pharisees when trying to prove that he is the Christ. Here's what he says in Matthew 22:41-46.

[41] Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question,

[42] saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him,

“The son of David.” [43] He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

[44] “The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?

[45] If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" [46] And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

It is abundantly clear that the Sovereign King and Messiah, in Psalm 110, is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

And as the Sovereign King and Messiah, God is calling him to sit at his right hand until all of his enemies are under his feet (Subdued or in submission to him).

Now, when you see the phrase, **"Sit at my right hand,"** you need to know that the right hand of God was the place of power, honor, and rulership.

So this is an invitation, from Yahweh, for Jesus to sit in the place of power and authority in heaven. This is exactly what happened when Jesus ascended into heaven after his resurrection. **And the cool thing is that while he is sitting in that place, his enemies are simultaneously being brought into submission to him.**

King Jesus fully conquered sin, death, and all forms of evil on the cross, accomplishing all the work he came to do. **Which means that he can sit on God's throne until his finished work has its full effect in the world.**

The author of Hebrews says it this way in Hebrews 10:12-13:

[12] But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, [13] waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

God, through Christ, fully finished his work of bringing his kingdom to earth. And he has now sent out the scepter or rule of Christ (Verse 2) into the world and is expanding it through the collective witness of his church and the preaching of the gospel. Which means that Christ's rule is here on earth through the church, and we as his people are working and waiting for the day when all creation submits to him.

I realize this can be a bit confusing, but it is what theologians call the already and not yet kingdom.

Illustration

In fact, theologian Oscar Cullman famously used events in World War II to illustrate this. He said, *"We celebrate the Normandy landings on June the 6th, 1944 as D-Day, the day when, in a sense, the decisive events that would end World War II actually took place. But the war was not ended until the unconditional surrender of the German forces in May 1945 and of the Japanese forces in August 1945....in the year or so between D-Day and the end of the war, there was still conflict, still suffering, and still loss of life. The decisive events took place in the past in 1944, but their full implications would not be worked out until the future, the following year in 1945."*

Application

Now look, I realize it's hard to live in the in between when we encounter real pain and evil in the world. Not a day goes by that we don't hear about things like rape, murder, kidnapping, overdoses, oppression, and even slavery.

But we need to remember that this world, in its present form, isn't our home. Instead, there is a mighty God and King, Jesus Christ, who fully and decisively brought his kingdom to earth to redeem his creation and his people from sin and death. **And he now sits at God's right hand, because his work is finished, even though we can't see it yet.**

This means that we can be assured that his gospel will continue to expand, the church will continue to flourish, and lost souls will be found and won until the day that he returns.

So don't lose hope in the midst of an evil and crooked generation. Instead, remember that Christ is your King and that one day all things will be under his feet.

But as good as his kingship is, it means nothing unless he is also our priest and advocate. Look with me at Psalm 110:4

Christ is our Priest

Psalm 110:4

***[4] The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek."***

What is so interesting about Psalm 110 is that this is the only place in the Old Testament where the Messiah (Christ) is directly called a priest. Not only that, but he is said to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek, who is a person that only appears for a few verses in Genesis 14:18-20. Here is what it says about him.

[18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) [19] And he blessed him and said,

***"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
[20] and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"***

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

In Genesis 14, Abram and his servants had just rescued Lot and defeated King Chedorlaomer and the other kings that were with him.

As he returned from these battles, he was greeted by Melchizedek. We learn that he was not only the king of Salem (**Melchizedek means “King of righteousness”**), but he was a priest of the Most High God. And this **Priest-King** not only brought bread and wine (which many believe is a precursor to communion), but he also blessed Abram, and in turn, Abram offered him a tenth of everything he had as an act of worship.

And this small story about Melchizedek in Genesis 14 is meant to be a picture of who Jesus is supposed to be as our Priest and King.

Look with me at some of these verses out of Hebrews 7.

Hebrews 7:1–3

[1] For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, [2] and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. [3] He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:11

[11] Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:15–17

[15] This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, [16] who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. [17] For it is witnessed of him,

***“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”***

Hebrews 7:22

[22] This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Now, I wish I could have read all of Hebrews 7, so that you would see how it all fits together, but I want to encourage you to read it on your own. But the point is this.

The Old Testament priesthood and sacrificial system could not permanently make us right with God. So God sent another priest, like Melchizedek, who inaugurated a better covenant.

This is Christ, who is not only our righteous king and ruler, but as our perfect priest, he is also the one who perfectly sacrificed himself so that we could be made right with God.

This is why scripture calls him our mediator and our advocate.

As Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:5:

[5] For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Jesus is the one who bridges the infinite gap between us and God and gives us a forever relationship with the Father.

1 John 2:1

[1] My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Though we are sinners who deserve the wrath of God, Jesus is the one, gave us his right standing with the Father and declares us innocent in his sight.

Only a sovereign, perfect, and powerful Priest-King could do that for his people.

Application

Because of this, you and I have a new and forever relationship with the Father. He no longer looks at you and sees your sin, but all he sees in you is the righteousness and perfection of Christ.

This means that you and I now belong to him forever. We were bought with the perfect sacrifice of Christ and will never, ever, be snatched out of his hand.

So when the enemy tempts you to despair because of your sin, you can remember that Christ is your priest. He took your sin upon himself, he pleads your case, and through him, the Father declares you innocent.

Or if evil people speak against you and tear you down, you can remember that your identity is now a **loved child of God**, because you were adopted through the blood of Christ.

And when the pain of living in a fallen world feels crushing and unbearable, you can live in the hope that Jesus, as your mediator and advocate, hears you, he cares for you, he is praying on your behalf to the Father, and he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Because Christ is our Priest-King who one day will put an end to all pain, oppression, and evil in the world and in our lives. **He will be victorious.**

Christ will be victorious

Psalm 110:5-7

***[5] The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.
[6] He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
he will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.
[7] He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.***

Illustration

Think back to the opening story from The Incredibles, where Mr. Incredible says, “So what are you waiting for?” and the boy says, “I don’t know, something amazing, I guess.”

Verses

For the Israelites who would have read this and for us as the church, who are reading this today, we are now getting a glimpse of the “something amazing” that will happen in the future.

It’s the events surrounding the “day of wrath,” which generally refer to the return of Christ. That moment where Christ, who is sitting on the throne of God in verse 1, now goes out as the King and commander of God’s army.

He is getting ready to fight a final battle in which all the evil nations and their rulers will be shattered (V.5). Where he will bring swift justice as he fills the nations with the corpses of evil people (V. 6a). And, where he will shatter the chief rulers of this world, which include Satan and all other spiritual forces in the heavenly places.

Now, I realize that I can’t do justice to the grandeur of this event, so let me read you the description of this battle Revelation 19:11-16:

[11] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God (Christ). [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

This is one of the greatest and most glorious visions of our Priest-King, Jesus Christ, in all of scripture. And like all hero stories and movies, what this is all building to is the moment when Christ subdues the earth, conquers his enemies, and lifts his head in final victory.

As David writes in Psalm 110:7:

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

Jesus is going to win.

Application

You see, the difference between the D-day victory that ultimately won World War II and what the Bible tells us is that in World War II they didn't get to see the end before it happened.

But God, in his kindness, not only won the decisive battle for us, through Christ, but he made sure to strengthen our hope even more by showing us how the story ends.

This is important because if we are honest, there are days when it feels like we have no clue what God is doing. We are like Habakkuk, who questions God because he can't comprehend that God would judge the Israelites through an evil nation.

So we cry out to God and say, "God, why aren't you doing anything? Aren't you the holy God who hates evil? Why does it feel like evil is winning?"

But here's what God said to Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2:3

***[3] For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.***

***If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.***

I don't know what evil, oppression, or pain you're experiencing this morning, but God wants you to know that Christ is coming. You might want him to get here sooner, you may feel like he's taking his sweet old time, but he is coming. And we are told all over scripture that he will be victorious, and that he will be with us forever as our God, our priest, and our victorious king.

As it says in Revelation 21:3-4:

[3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

So then, knowing all of this, how is he calling us to respond to him today?

Christ is our Leader

Psalm 110:3

***[3] Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.***

Admittedly, the wording of verse 3 is a little difficult to understand, but let me try to simplify it for you.

Revelation 22:16 says that Jesus is the “bright morning star.” Which means he has brought light to the earth, and through his life, death, and resurrection, he has brought people out of the darkness of sin and death into his marvelous light of everlasting life.

In a similar way, in verse 3, he is the womb of the morning, and the dew that forms are the multitudes of his saints that he has redeemed and who belong to him.

And as his people, who are free from the power of sin, we are now able and called to freely offer ourselves to him.

To do the kingdom-expanding work of spreading his name, his fame, and his rule within our region and to the ends of the earth.

The way that he has called us to do this is by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, both in our words and in how we live, and by calling people to believe in and to follow him.

Application

This is the mission and call that God has given to every believer, and it is the main mission that he has called us to as a church.

As Jesus famously said in Matthew 28:19-20:

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Or, if you were at the town hall meeting last Sunday, we wrote it this way so that we had a better understanding of what we want this to look like at La Crescent Free.

We are about, **“Loving God and inviting others to follow Christ.”**

This is the mission and work that we are called to fulfill. And as his people, we need to see it as our joy to freely offer ourselves in service to Christ.

Because his mission is ultimately a work that is already completed, because it was finished on the cross.

This means that we can “Love God and invite others to follow Christ” with confidence because we know that it will be successful, fruitful, and will transform lives. **Because Christ is the one who has already done the work for us.**

Conclusion

So don't lose hope, even when it feels like evil is winning around you. Rather, put your hope in Christ as your Victorious King and Advocate, and give yourself to the kingdom-expanding and great commission-fulfilling work of inviting others to follow Christ.

Because the decisive battle is already won. And even though we can't see it yet, one day he will declare total victory. All of creation will submit to him in worship, evil and death will be thrown into the lake of fire, and we will be with Christ, our Priest and our King, forever and ever. Amen!

Let's Pray.