

Character Study: “Christ in the Psalms”

- “Royal Zion Academy of Music” – *songbook* of Israel. The ‘music hall of life’. No historical characters. Life of David. Abstract men – righteous [unrighteous], godly [ungodly], blessed [foolish].
- Best to “mark [take note, gaze] the perfect [blameless] man” [Psa. 37]. Christ in *all* the Scriptures. Luke 24, “Everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the **Psalms** must be fulfilled.”

Christ in the Psalms – by Comparison

- He can be found in every Psalm. Take Psalm 1 – describes the *righteous* Man. Psalm 2 – the *royal* Man.
 - “the man” [יֵשׁוּעַ]. A *great* man in contrast with *ordinary* men. Not *Adam* [origin, dust] or *Enosh* [frail].
 - He does not “stand in the [path]way of sinners”. He did not embrace the lifestyle of sinners.
 - Instead, His consuming pleasure [delight] is the word of God. Meditates continually – fruitful.

Christ in the Messianic Psalms – His Character

- But some Psalms are called “Messianic Psalms”. **1.** Quoted in NT of Christ, Acts 2.25: “David says about Him...” [Jesus of Nazareth, Psalm 16]. **2.** Psalms which, apart from Christ, cannot be fulfilled. Psa. 72.8: “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the river unto the ends of the earth.”
- There are **sixteen** “Messianic Psalms” [2, 8, 16, 22, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 91, 102, 110 and 118].
- He is the **Son** [2]. Shares the same nature; reveals the same character. Makes Him equal with God.
- He is **God** [45]. “Thy throne O God...” *Elohim*, Creator God [Gen. 1]. ‘The eternal God has enthroned you’!
- He is the **Man** [8]. Adam *and* Christ. Dominion Adam gave away will be restored in Christ, over “all things”.
- He is **Shepherd** [23]. I have all that I need [spiritually]. He renews my strength. Leads me along right paths.

Christ in the Messianic Psalms – His Course

- God has a grand purpose – to install His King. Fill the world with *righteousness* and *rejoicing* [Psa. 146-150, Hallelujah Chorus]. But mankind is *ruined* [sin]. He must be *redeemed* and *restored*. Before Christ *reigns*.

His Life

- Psalm **40** [vv.6-8]. Incarnation. Quoted in Heb. 10.5-7. Sacrificial system was not fit for purpose. It had become legalistic ritual [outward form]. God desired such perfect obedience to Him that sacrifices would be superfluous! “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken...” [1 Sam. 15]. “Lo, I am come!”
- Psalm **91** [vv.11-12]. Temptation. Quoted by devil. Not v.13! The Devil is the lion, adder [serpent] and dragon.
- Psalm **41** [v.9]. Betrayal. David speaks of Ahithophel, his counsellor [trusted friend, man of *shalom*] turned against him [joined Absalom]. Quoted in John 13.18, “that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel [to kick] against me.” Omitted “in whom I trusted”.

His Death & Resurrection

- Psalm **22**. Note also Psalm **69**. Different aspects of the sufferings of Christ. Psa. 69 – suffering for righteousness’ sake [suffering *for* God]. Psa. 22 – atoning suffering on the cross [suffering *from* God].
- “They pierced my hands and my feet,” [v.16]. 700 years before crucifixion [Persians]. And Kingdom.
- Psalm **16** [vv.10-11]. Resurrection [Acts 2]. Christ had hope. “*thou wilt not leave my soul in hell,*” – He would not be abandoned to the *grave* or remain *captive* to death. How? “*Thou wilt shew me the path of life,*” – restored to life, and ascended [v.11]. The Holy One could not experience corruption [decay].
- Psalm **68** [v.18]. Ascension [Eph. 4]. Christ has “led captivity captive” – military phrase, simply refers to *victory achieved* [Satan, death, grave], *enemies defeated*, and *spoils being shared* – gives gifts to His own.

His Kingdom

- Psalm **110** [v.1]. Glorification. Invited to sit at God’s right hand *until* [Heb. 1]. “Sit thou,” – 2,000 years. “Rule thou,” – 1,000 years [v.2]. In the meantime, He is our GHP after the *order* [pattern] of Melchizedek.
- Psalm **45** [v.6]. The Kingdom. Warrior King, beautiful in character. “Fairer”, beyond compare, beautiful [x2]. The Mighty One who comes to *establish* His kingdom [v.3] and *reign* in righteousness [v.6]. Alongside Him, the resplendent queen [v.9]. His *earthly* bride [Israel]. **But** He has a heavenly bride too!

Psalm 45.1: “My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.”