

Jackie Willard

From: Trevor Smith [tsmith@wpc-clt.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2007 12:54 PM
To: 'Trevor Smith'
Subject: Sermonnotes for this Sunday, November 4, 2007

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Sermonnotes: Sunday, November 4, 2007

Notes to better help you understand Sunday's sermon text

Title: The Coming Messiah

The 110th Psalm is one of the most quoted in all the New Testament. Jesus and the apostles recognize the psalm as a 'Messianic' psalm. The king being enthroned, however, is no mere man.

While we often skip over the part of the psalm that tells us who wrote it and for whom and sometimes on occasion, here that information is critical to our understanding. David is the author. And David is at this time the psalm is not about him. Instead, he takes upon himself the prophetic role in declaring the rightful enthroned Messianic King.

The first line of the psalm reads then, "A declaration of Yahweh to my (David's) Lord". What follows are the words to the Son. Verses 2 and 3 reveal what Messiah's **kingship** will look like, verse 4 what his **priesthood** will be like, verses 5-7 what the battle he will engage in and lead as **warrior king** will be like.

Derek Kidner outlines how the N.T. uses this psalm to explain Jesus' kingship and priesthood. Jesus is greater than David (Acts 2:34), but greater than the angels (Heb. 1:13). God exalted Jesus 'as emphatically as man rejects David'. Jesus reigns as Savior and Intercessor (Acts 5:31; Rom. 8:34). As the finisher of our salvation, Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 10:11). Jesus awaits the final surrender of all God's enemies (Heb. 10:13).

In referring to the pre-Abrahamic priest, Melchizedek, who we meet in Genesis 14:18-20 (and is referred to in Hebrews 7:20f) David is showing Christ's superiority to both the Abrahamic covenant and the Levitical priesthood. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross finishes the 'until Messiah comes' nature of the sacrificial system centered in the Jerusalem temple. Melchizedek's name, 'King of righteousness' and his home, Salem (=Jerusalem) which means 'peace' reinforces the fact that Jesus was to point to Jesus, the promised Messiah.

The closing verses tell us that the battles the church will face between now and Jesus' return will be difficult, but the ultimate victory is assured!