

Doctrine of the Trinity, Part 2

We have been studying Psalm 110 by King David and have seen that David was speaking of the Messiah, but, more importantly, how the picture he drew so closely matches the life and death of Jesus. There is no question that this is a Messianic Psalm, so let's see what else David has to tell us about the Messiah.

Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

In Psalm 110, David makes seven prophetic statements about the Messiah:

First, David says that "his Lord" has been exalted to sit at the right hand of God. In antiquity, this was the highest position of honor. The Jewish Midrash affirms that being seated at the right hand of God is the Messiah's rightful position. Throughout the NT, we see references to Jesus as the risen Messiah seated at the right hand of God.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 26:54 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Mark 14:62 And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Hebrews 10:12 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. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

See also Mark 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; and 8:1.

Second, David says his Lord will one day vanquish His enemies and make them a footstool.

Psalms 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!”

This signifies total victory over His enemies. The NT speaks of the fulfillment of this prophecy as still future.

1 Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. This will not be fulfilled until Jesus returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, during the period Christians call the Millennium and Jews call the Kingdom.

Third, David says his Lord's dominion will extend from Israel to all the earth.

Psalms 110:2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

The LORD will stretch forth His mighty scepter from Zion. Isaiah saw a time when Sar Shalom (Prince of Peace) would rule over a restored earthly kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Fourth, David says his Lord will command a mighty army of willing warriors. "Freely" literally means "free-will offering."

Psalm 110:3 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.

Romans 12:1 says that every believer will present himself as a living sacrifice to God.

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

We are His warriors, fighting His fight in Satan's world by presenting the Gospel and living as witnesses for Christ, "walking in the Spirit."

Fifth, David says his Lord presides (present tense) over an eternal priesthood.

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

This is an unalterable truth—the Lord has sworn. Melchizedek was a king-priest in Abraham's time, and we see him going out to meet Abraham after Abraham's victory over Chedorlaomer and the kings allied with him.

Genesis 14:17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 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.

"Salem" was an ancient name for Jerusalem. Some interpret the bringing of bread and wine as foreshadowing the Eucharist, but note that Abraham, the father of the Levitical priesthood, tithed to Melchizedek, recognizing his priestly authority. Abraham also accepted Melchizedek's blessings.

Who is this Melchezedek?

He is something of an enigma. Aside from the NT references to him, he is mentioned only twice: Psalm 110:4 and in Genesis 10:18-20. He appears, shares bread and wine with Abraham, blesses him, receives his tithes, and then disappears into antiquity. That has led to much speculation. A Dead Sea scroll identifies him as El, or God. The Book of the Secrets of Enoch recounts Melchezedek's miraculous birth and subsequent ascension into heaven, where he becomes the head of a line of priests that continues until the Advent of the Messiah. Some say he is a pre-Bethlehem manifestation of Jesus Christ, similar to the OT references to the "Angel of the LORD." The writer of the Book of Hebrews affirms that Melchezedek is like God and is both a king and a priest (Hebrews 7:1-28). Could Melchezedek have been a preincarnate Christ? Is there biblical support for this?

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

One answer to this is that Jesus, as God, existed before Abraham, but could our Lord have been referring to this incident almost 2000 years earlier, when Melchizedek met Abraham?

The priesthood of Aaron is temporary and imperfect; the priesthood of the Messiah is permanent, flawless, and efficacious, and it is based on a "better covenant." Hebrews implies that Aaron's priesthood will someday end and be replaced by a better priesthood.

This is in place in the Church Age right now—

Revelation 1:4 ... Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, **priests to his God and Father**, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Emphasis added)

This refers to the abolition of a formal priesthood during the Church Age, in which each believer is his own priest and able to represent himself before the Throne of Grace.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

A High Priest must have a priesthood beneath him. Church Age believers possess that authority and responsibility.

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and **made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father**, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Emphasis added)

Revelation 5:10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The Levitical priesthood will also change during the Kingdom.

It is entirely possible that Melchizedek was the preincarnate Christ. One thing is for sure: the Messiah's priesthood will also be royal — the King-priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Sixth, David says his Lord will bring down earthly governments and judge the nations.

Psalm 110:5 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.

Messiah will crush the earthly armies that oppose His people and Him. He will sit in judgment over them.

Seventh, David says this Lord will endure a torrent of suffering, followed by exaltation.

Psalm 110:7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

At first, this verse seems strangely out of place. Some say this refers to the battle-weary King refreshing Himself, but "brook" is not the ordinary word for a stream, which would be *zerem* or *mayim*. It is *nachal*, which is more powerful than a stream or babbling brook. This is a torrent, a raging river, a flood! Isaiah 30:33 uses this word to describe God's judgment raining down on the wicked "like a stream (*nachal*) of sulfur."

Isaiah 30:33 For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of **sulfur**, kindles it.

In Psalm 110:7, the word translated "way" ("wayside" in some translations) is *derek*, often used to denote one's course through life. During our Lord's earthly life, He would drink from a cup, "a torrent of suffering." That period of tragedy would be followed by His exaltation, or "lifting up His head." Older commentaries support this translation. Spurgeon, the famous Baptist expositor, said it "describes the passion of Christ and His glory."

These are David's seven prophecies about the Messiah. Who else could David be speaking of but Israel's matchless, marvelous King/Messiah? No one else fits the description as completely as Jesus Christ.

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Other Prophecies

Not only does the Old Testament depict the Messiah as God, but it is also full of prophecies fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. There are too many to cover them all, but I will show you some of the most significant and telling prophecies that depict Jesus and His works and suffering in the OT and often authenticate Jesus as the Messiah.

Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

Fulfilled in

Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.

And betrayed by a friend.

Psalms 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (Also Psalm 55:12-14; Zechariah 13:6)

Fulfilled

Matthew 26:49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

The money was cast to the Potter.

Zechariah 11:13 Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.

Jesus was forsaken by His disciples.

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Fulfilled

Matthew 26:56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Mark 14:27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

He was accused by false witnesses.

Psalms 35:11 Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know.

Fulfilled

Matthew 26:59 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.

He is smitten, spit upon, and his beard is plucked out.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:30 And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

Luke 22:64 They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

Jesus was "dumb before His accusers."

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Messiah would be wounded and bruised.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

His hands and feet would be pierced.

Psalms 22:16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

Fulfilled

Luke 23:33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him ...

Messiah would be crucified between two thieves.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Fulfilled

Mark 15:27 And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

He would bear the sins of many.

Isaiah 53:12 ...he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Fulfilled

Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**”

Those looking on "wag their heads."

Psalm 109:25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they wag their heads.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads

They ridiculed Him.

Psalm 22:8 “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

His garments were "parted," and lots were cast for them.

Psalm 22:18 They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Fulfilled

John 19:23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

The Messiah would cry out from the Cross.

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Gall and vinegar would be offered to Him.

Psalm 69:21 They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Fulfilled

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

He would commit His Spirit to the Father at death.

Psalm 31:5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Fulfilled

Luke 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “**Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!**” And having said this he breathed his last.

His friends stood far off.

Psalm 38:11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off.

Fulfilled

Luke 23:49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Darkness occurred as Jesus was being judged for the sins of man.

Amos 8:9 “And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.”

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

It is notable that extra-biblical historical records have been found that mention this unusual darkness not associated with a solar eclipse.

Though he died between two thieves, he was buried as a rich man.

Isaiah 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Fulfilled

Matthew 27:57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean

linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

Jesus was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a Pharisee, a secret follower of Jesus, and a wealthy man.

Passover Lamb

Jesus was the Passover Lamb, and it was no coincidence that He was crucified at Passover. The Law said that no bones were to be broken when preparing the lamb for the Passover meal. Psalm 34:20 says, "He keeps all His bones; not one of them is broken." To hasten death and get the bodies down before the Sabbath at sundown, it was ordered that the thighbones of the three be broken. This was to prevent the crucifixion victims from supporting themselves with their legs and to hasten death by anoxia. They broke the thighbones of the two thieves, but when they came to Jesus, He was already dead (John 19:33, 36), so there was no need to break His thighbones.

Psalm 22:14 speaks of bones out of joint. In crucifixion, it was common for the joints to separate because of the hanging weight and the loss of strength. In Psalm 22:17, we see references to bones again, this time showing. Hanging on the Cross and naked (John 19:23), Jesus' bones would be more prominent than usual and easily seen.

Psalm 22:14 says, "I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me." Zechariah 12:10 says the Messiah will be pierced.

In John 19:34, we see the Roman soldier pierce His side (to the heart), and out came "blood and water." "Water" here refers to serum, the yellowish liquid that remains when blood coagulates. "Blood" is the coagulated red blood cells. This is mentioned in Scripture as proof that Jesus died and was not in a coma or drug-induced stupor, to be later revived and spirited away, as some have charged.

Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 are two OT passages that clearly picture Jesus and His death long before it happened. It should also be noted that Psalm 22 depicts crucifixion in detail centuries before the Romans adopted it as a practice. There are so many prophecies in the OT that speak of the

Messiah and were so clearly fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus the Christ that we have to wonder how it could be missed that He was the Messiah.

We will look at more such passages next week.