

PSALMS II

PART 4. MESSIANIC PSALMS

The Messianic psalms are those psalms which specifically reveal Christ, the Messiah, the Savior and Ruler of Israel and the world. Throughout the Old Testament we find specific predictive details of Jesus and His work. For instance, Genesis 3:15 promises that the Redeemer will be born of a woman; Isaiah 53 describes the substitutionary work of Messiah; Micah 5:2 pinpoints that the Christ shall come out of Bethlehem. But no other book matches the Psalms in the detail of revelation of Christ's person, His work, and the extent of His kingdom.

These psalms are specifically Messianic: 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 102, 110 and 118.

1. After you have read all these psalms, put an X in this box: []

Many other psalms also briefly mention Christ the Messiah; however, we will study in detail, several of them that are specifically Messianic Psalms.

Psalm 2. A Psalm for the Nations

The theme of this psalm may be said to be: the ministry of Christ to the nations. In Acts 4:23-28 this psalm is related to Christ at His first coming.

2. Which verses from Psalm 2 are quoted in Acts 4:23-28? _____

Generally this is considered the psalm of the Second Coming. Regardless of the specific time reference, Christ is portrayed as God's agent for dealing with nations. This psalm is an altar call for the nations.

3. What are the peoples of the world seen doing in verse 1? _____

Without Christ, man is in turmoil internally and externally.

4. Write out Isaiah 57:20 & 21 _____

5. Against whom do world leaders set themselves? v. 2 _____

"His anointed" refers to the Lord's Messiah. The scene could be Calvary, Armageddon, or any time in between.

6. What is the attitude of these leaders to God’s claim of rulership on the earth? v. 3 _____

7. What is the Lord’s response to the rebellion and self-exaltation of the heads of nations?
 a. v. 4 _____
 b. v. 5 _____
 c. v. 6 _____
8. Suddenly Jesus Himself declared: “The Lord hath said unto Me...” What did the Lord say to Jesus?
 v. 7 _____

It is generally considered that the words “I have begotten Thee” refers to God’s act in the resurrection of Christ, which in the first place, “declared (Jesus) to be the Son of God with power...by His resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4), and secondly, established Jesus the Messiah as the great mediator King.

9. What is Christ the Son to ask the Father for? v. 8 _____

10. What kind of rule is Messiah capable of? v. 9 _____

This prophecy looks forward to Christ’s exercise of absolute authority in the Millennial reign. In view of this certain and absolute dominion in the future, postponed only by the mercy and grace of God, all nations are invited, (instructed), to bow in submission to Christ now. (v. 10)

11. What two things are encouraged in verse 11? a. _____
 b. _____
 This is the altar call for the nations.
12. What is the choice offered to all peoples of the earth? v. 12a _____

13. What is the promise given for all who choose to “kiss the Son”? v. 12b _____

Psalm 16. The Resurrection Psalm.

The theme of this psalm is that God fully cares for and preserves His chosen people. It is clear from this psalm that God's chosen people are those who choose to put all their trust in the Lord. In Acts 2:22-36 Peter quotes from this psalm, specifically applying it to Christ.

14. Who was Peter referring to in Acts 2:31, when he quotes David's declaration in Psalm 16:10?

Throughout the psalm we hear the voice of one fully trusting in God, fully committing himself to God, and fully rejoicing in God. This is the voice of the only Son of God, and equally appropriately it is the voice of a dedicated servant God such as David.

15. On what grounds can the believer ask God to preserve him? v. 1 _____

16. What does his soul say to the Lord? v. 2 _____

One meaning of "My goodness extends not to You" is "I have no good besides You."

17. What did Jesus say in Mark 10:18? _____

18. In whom does the speaker delight? Ps. 16:3 _____

In Psalm 16:2 we see Christ's subordinate position before God, in verse 3 His position as intercessor for mankind, who is the delight of His heart.

19. What is promised to those who serve a god other than the Lord? v. 4 _____

The last seven verses of this psalm enumerate the great blessings that are enjoyed by one who is wholly given over to God.

20. What is the portion, the inheritance, of the believer? v. 5 _____

21. How is this portion described in verse 6? _____

22. For what gift does the believer bless the Lord in verse 7? _____

The last part of the verse says that he receives this guidance in his heart (his reins).

23. How much of the time does the believer place the Lord before him? v. 8 _____
24. Why shall the believer not be moved? v. 8 _____
25. What three aspects of the believer are listed as finding their satisfaction in God? v. 9
 a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
26. Verse 10 contains the great promise of resurrection for the believer. Specifically, who is named as being kept from corruption? _____

“Thine Holy One” refers to the Messiah Jesus Christ, as evidenced in Acts 2:31. The promise in verse 10 is for each believer because it was accomplished in Christ through His resurrection.

27. Write out the following two verses. a. I Corinthians 15:20 _____

- b. I Corinthians 15:23 _____

28. Write out Psalm 16:11 from memory. _____

These promises that we have in Christ were first experienced by Christ. As He faced His crucifixion and burial He knew from this psalm of the resurrection, the path of life, the fullness of joy and everlasting pleasures. In this hope, this sure expectation, he lived and we live also.

Psalm 22. The Psalm of the Crucifixion.

This psalm is Messianic because (1) the opening words are spoken by Christ on the cross and (2) the whole psalm is uniquely applicable to the experience of the cross, both in its record of the outward historical events and in its expression of the inward personal experience of the crucified One. Furthermore, much of the psalm sets forth the purpose and extent of the sacrifice of Messiah.

It is impossible for the believer not to recognize the account of Christ’s suffering in these verses. It is as if Christ spoke the first nine words (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34) and let the record of scripture complete the statement which He could not speak at length because of the agony of His torment.

29. Of what does the speaker accuse God in verses 1 and 2? _____

Here in these two verses Christ is portrayed in His limitation as a man. In His humanity and weakness of the human flesh, He cries out to His Father. However, in the next verses (3 through 5) He encourages Himself in the Lord, like David did.

30. In verses 4 and 5 he finds relief and encouragement remembering Israel's experiences. What did Israel and their forefathers do and what was the result? _____

Overcome by "such contradiction of sinners against Himself" (Hebrews 12:3), He is made a mockery before men (verses 6 through 8).

31. What four things does He say He is in verse 6? a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____

32. What word from Isaiah 53:3 is used here in verse 6 also? _____

33. Write out Matthew 27:39, which parallels verse 7 of this psalm. _____

34. Write out Matthew 27:43, which parallels verse 8. _____

The One Who is suffering now turns inwardly to God.

35. How early in His life did the Father begin to care for Him? vv. 9, 10 _____

36. What does He cry out for in verse 11? _____

Calvary was a public event, but the victim bore it alone.

37. To what is the crowd compared in verses 12 and 13? _____

38. In verses 14 through 17, how does He describe His physical suffering?
- a. He is poured out _____ v. 14
 - b. All His bones _____ v. 14
 - c. His heart _____
_____ v. 14
 - d. His strength _____ v. 15
 - e. His tongue _____ v. 15
 - f. He is brought into _____ v. 15
 - g. His hands and feet _____ v. 16
 - h. All his bones _____ v. 17

39. Copy the verse from Matthew 27 which describes the fulfillment of verse 18 of this psalm.

Notice that in this verse Psalm 22 is specifically spoken of as being a prophecy of the crucifixion.

40. What part of His being does He ask the Lord to save from this destruction? v. 20 _____

41. What is the last cry for help in this psalm? v. 21 _____

It is a cry of faith: Save me... for thou hast heard me..” From this point on, a testimony of triumph comes forth.

42. What two things does He say He will do? v. 22 a. _____

b. _____

43. What did the Lord always faithfully do when His people in the midst of their suffering and affliction, cried out to Him? v. 24 _____

44. Who shall remember this event and worship the Lord? v. 27 _____

The victory at Calvary brought about the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham that in his people “shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

45. Who is the ruler among all nations? v. 28 _____

46. Who is able to keep alive his own soul without the work of the Lord? v. 29 _____

We are given two facts about the Gospel Age after Christ in these last two verses.

47. Who shall serve Him? v. 30 _____

This seed will begin small and have the power of growth.

48. To whom shall the righteousness of the Lord be declared? v. 31 _____

Here it is promised that the Good News of the triumph at Calvary shall be proclaimed to future generations.

Psalm 40. A Man of Sorrows Victorious by His Will

This psalm gives a picture of complete consecration and utter abandonment to the will of God. Though this is meant to be the testimony of every believer, it is most perfectly exemplified in the Son of God.

This and the next three psalms are treated briefly, opening the way for the student's own further study.

49. What was it that the Lord did not require or desire? v. 6 _____

One meaning of "Mine ears hast Thou opened" is "Now you have made me to hear and understand." He has come to understand and perform the truth of I Samuel 15:22.

50. From I Samuel 15:22, what is it that the Lord does delight in and desire? _____

He desires that His will be done rather than that we make an offering to cover our failure.

It is clear from Hebrews 10:4-7 that the words in Psalm 40:7-8 are the testimony of Christ.

51. What does Christ delight to do? v. 8 _____

52. Where is the law of the Lord? v. 8 _____

He has come to fully perform the word of God, the law of the Lord, and to fully **be** the Son of God.

53. Finally, what has Christ done? v. 9 _____

He has preached, "declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation," openly to all the world.

Psalm 45. The Bridegroom and His Bride.

This is a nuptial ode celebrating the marriage of the King. It is a prophetic forecast of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9).

54. How has God separated out this one (often identified with Christ) from His fellows? v. 7 _____

55. From where does this One proceed? v. 8 _____
56. What advice is given to the bride (the Church)? v. 10b _____

57. What advice is given to the Church in II Corinthians 6:17? _____

58. What relationship does this bride have to the One Who greatly desires her beauty? v. 11 _____
59. What two things are said about the bride's beauty in verse 13?
a. _____
b. _____

This psalm may have an historical basis in the marriage of Solomon with the daughter of an earthly king, but many elements of this description are thought to speak of the marriage of Christ and His bride.

Psalm 72. The King of the Kingdom

This is generally considered to be a Millennial psalm portraying the glories of the reign of Christ on earth. This psalm may have two points of reference: (1) to Solomon's reign, the Golden Age of Israel's kingdom, and (2) to the much more glorious 1000 year reign of Christ on earth.

60. How shall Christ rule the people? v. 2 _____

61. What shall be the geographical extent of His kingdom? v. 8 _____

62. Which nations shall serve Him? v. 11 _____
63. How will He treat the poor? vv. 12,13 _____

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64. What will be the response of the people to Him? v. 15 a. _____

b. _____

Psalm 110. The Priest-King

Psalm 110 has been said to be “purely Messianic.” In Matthew 22:41-46 Jesus specifically identifies “My Lord” (Psalm 110:1) with Messiah, the Christ.

65. What evidences of ruling power do we see in these verses?
a. v. 1 _____
b. v. 2 _____

c. v. 3 _____
66. In Hebrews 5:6, 6:20 and 7:21, Who is the One Who is called “a priest forever after the Order of Melchizedek”? _____

Psalms 113-118. The Great Hallel

“Hallel” means “praise.” This series of psalms opens with the Hebrew word “hallelujah,” which means “Praise ye the Lord” (hallel u jah). This great praise was the song traditionally sung on Passover night in remembrance of Israel’s great deliverance from Egypt. It was sung by the family gathered for the Passover meal. It is supposed that this was the hymn which Jesus and the disciples sang before they went out after their Passover meal (Matthew 26:30). In these psalms Christ is revealed as the Passover Lamb.

Traditionally Psalms 113 and 114 were sung before the meal and 115 through 118 afterwards. As we proceed through these psalms we do not begin to see specifically Messianic reference until Psalm 116.

In **Psalm 116** we begin to hear the voice of Jesus.

67. With what is He compassed (surrounded) in verse 3? _____
68. In verse 4 we hear an echo of the cry in Psalm 22:20, 21. What is the cry here? _____

69. What is the statement of faith in verse 6? _____

70. Because the Lord has dealt bountifully with Him, to where can His soul now return? v. 7

71. From what three things has He been delivered? v. 8 a. _____
b. _____ c. _____
72. He is sure of His deliverance from death into what place? v. 9 _____

We can see Christ moving by faith through the affliction of the cross, fully aware of the price to be paid and the great deliverance to be won.

73. What does He say He will take? v. 13 _____
74. Then what will He do? v. 13 _____
75. What does Jesus say about this cup in Matthew 26? a. v. 39 _____

b. v. 42 _____

76. What does He say He will do publicly? v. 14 _____

77. What is He aware of that lies ahead for Him? v. 15 _____
78. Nevertheless, He will do what two things? a. v. 17 _____

b. v. 18 _____

Psalm 117, the middle chapter of the Bible, is an offering of praise for the effect that this event has upon all people of the earth.

Psalm 118 is Christ's farewell song. The scene is at the foot of the cross. A subtitle for the song could be "Victory Ahead."

79. What common statement ties verses 1 through 4 together? _____

80. While in distress He called upon the Lord. Where did the Lord set Him? v. 5 _____

81. List the three declarations found in verse 6.
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
82. Verses 8 and 9 declare that it is better to trust in the Lord than to place one's confidence in other sources. What are the two other sources mentioned in these verses? _____
83. Throughout this progression, Who is stated as being greater than all? _____

84. At this moment of terrible personal attack, Who helped Him? v. 13 _____

Verse 14 is an echo of the Song of Moses (Exodus 15:2) which the children of Israel sang on the occasion of their great deliverance from Pharaoh at the Red Sea. This signal destruction of Pharaoh and his armies followed immediately upon the first Passover. Now at the occasion of this final Passover sacrifice, Jesus could see the imminent defeat of Satan and his minions. Here the type found its fulfillment and Jesus knew the meaning of the words they sang that day.

85. When faced with an uncertain future in the midst of difficulty, we can identify with the psalmist. What future outlook encouraged him _____ v. 17
86. For what purpose shall He live? v. 17 _____
87. Although he was not delivered over unto death, what did the Lord do through His suffering? v. 18

88. Why was He chastened? Hebrews 5:8-9 gives these two reasons.
 a. _____
 b. _____
89. Although the cross appeared to be a dead end, He began to see its ultimate purpose. What was its glorious purpose? _____
 _____ v. 20
90. What has the stone which the builders refused, become? v. 22 _____

91. Who was responsible for this strange and marvelous accomplishment? v. 23 _____

92. Although He has become a curse, taking the punishment of the cross for the sins of the people, How is it viewed in God's eyes? v. 26a _____

Christ received the worship of the people in these same words when He rode into Jerusalem before the crucifixion (Matthew 21:9). They were receiving Him as Messiah, the deliverer of Israel. Later that same week He identified Himself again with Messiah by saying that when He comes the second time, as their Savior-King, they shall receive Him with this same salutation. (Matthew 23:39)

93. With this assurance of victory in His heart, Christ is prepared to become the Passover sacrifice. What did He command in verse 27? _____

In the Great Hallel we see Christ, in His full submission to the Father, offer Himself as a praise unto His God.

This concludes Part II of the study in the book of Psalms. Part III is a continuation and should be completed in sequence. We encourage you to begin Part III as soon as possible to maintain the proper flow of study.

I have answered all of the questions and completed the memory work to the best of my ability.

Name _____ Address _____

Date _____

Please indicate the version of the Bible you used: _____