

6. The Christ, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

Previous lessons included two principles, among others: God interprets prophecies, and God would set up his kingdom in the time of the Roman kings. This lesson will contend that the prophecies forecast in the Old Testament find fulfillment and affirmation in Christ, making more certain the word of prophecy, and proving that God raised Christ from the dead to be King of kings and Lord of lords.

Christ, the King, Foretold to David

The prophecies begin with David whose offspring would be the king, succeeding to David's throne. Samuel told David in 2 Sam 7:12-13 that his offspring would succeed him, that God would establish his kingdom, that the house would bear the name of God, and God would establish the throne forever:

"12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

According to 2 Sam 7:16, the throne of this kingdom would endure forever and would be established forever: "16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

God, the father, confirmed this teaching, when he spoke to David in Ps 110:1-2:

1 The Lord says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

2 The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;
you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

The Lord God said that David's Lord, who would be the Christ, would rule with his mighty scepter, from the right hand of God, but in the midst of his enemies. The rule of Christ would begin while his enemies were still active in the world. From David's throne at the right hand of God, Christ would rule with his mighty scepter (the emblem of his regal authority). The apostles Paul explained exactly when the rule of the Christ began in Eph 1:19-23:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

When did God seat Christ at his right hand? When he raised him from the dead. When did Christ wield the scepter of David's power? When God raised Christ from the dead. When did Christ rule from among his enemies? When he ruled over all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, in this **present world**. Any doctrine, which teaches that Christ has yet to sit on his throne or yet to rule over his enemies, is false.

Christ to Rule over All and above All from His Resurrection Onward

David's prophecy in Ps 2:1-8 made it clear the Lord would rule from the throne of David while earthly conditions exist in their temporal form. Ps 2:1-3 establishes the conditions that describe Christ's rule:

- 1 Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together
against the Lord
and against his Anointed One.
- 3 "Let us break their chains," they say,
"and throw off their fetters."

During the time of the rule of Christ, the king, nations conspire, people plot, and the rulers are against the Lord, who is here the Anointed One. These can only be contemporary conditions of the Christian age and not some mythical and unscriptural reign after a second coming. The point previously made is now more certain: Christ was raised from the dead and rules as king over a contemporary world now.

To the contemporary conditions of the world during the King's reign, Ps 2:4-6 adds the location and status of the King:

- 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- 6 "I have installed my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

Christ is enthroned in heaven, just as Paul described in Eph 1:19-23. He is not a king in waiting for a future war and victory, as premillennialists assert. He is now laughing, scoffing, rebuking, and terrifying. He is an enthroned King and rules from God's holy hill Zion.

As the Psalm proceeds in Psalm 2:7-8, David describes circumstances that prove beyond any doubt the Jesus is now King on his throne and not waiting for a king and a future 1,000 year reign:

- 7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.
- 8 Ask of me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.

No false teacher can dispute that this entire Psalm applies to our contemporary world as it began with the resurrection of the Lord; for Paul asserted the fulfillment of this prophecy and named the Psalm 2 in Acts 13:32-34:

32 "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers 33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by **raising up Jesus**. As it is written in the second Psalm:

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.'

34 The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:

"I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' [Emphasis added].

Christ reigns as King, on the throne of David, over his kingdom now.

Christ To Rule with an Iron Scepter

David introduced a characteristic of Christ's reign as King that rules out any future 1,000 year reign on earth after his resurrection. In Ps 2:9, David wrote:

9 You will rule them with an iron scepter;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Christ himself quoted this prophecy and showed how it is fulfilled in the church in Rev 2:26-28:

26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations –

27 'He will rule them with an iron scepter;
he will dash them to pieces like pottery' –

just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give him the morning star.

The Lord is speaking through John to a real church, Thyatira, during a real time, 96AD. The authority and rule is to those who overcome and do his will to the end. Taking out the parenthetical statement of David's prophecy, Christ promised those that overcome authority over nations, just as he had received [past tense] authority from his Father. When did Christ receive his authority? When God raised him to sit at his right hand, according to Eph 1:20-21:

20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Christ affirmed that this was, indeed, the case, when after his resurrection and before his ascension, he had already received all authority in heaven and on earth. Matt 28:18 reads: "18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." The iron scepter and all authority stand inextricably connected from the resurrection forward. The Lord promised that Christians would share in this rule and authority in Matt 19:28:

28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Again, when was the renewal of all things? When the Son of Man sits of his glorious throne is when all things are renewed. He sat on his throne when God raised him from the dead. That the renewal included the followers of Christ is evident and reinforced by Paul in Titus 3:4-7:

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and **renewal** by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. [Emphasis added.]

In Rev 12:5, the son is the one with the iron scepter and the one snatched up (caught up) to his throne: " 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne."

The prophecy of David in Psalms 2 completes its meaning in Christ's resurrection to rule at the right hand of God. There is no timidity, weakness, or incompleteness in the reign of Christ. He is ruling with his scepter in Rev 19:15-16:

Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

God's plan announced in David's prophecy finds powerful meaning in the present tense statements of this passage: *out of his mouth comes a sharp sword; he treads the winepress of God; he has this name written.* Who can doubt that Jesus Christ the Lord is now reigning with his scepter – KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Christ to be King and High Priest

The prophecies of the Old Testament foretold the Christ as King over God's eternal kingdom and the Christ as high priest sitting on his priestly throne, administering spiritual service. When he was raised from the dead, Christ fulfilled both of these prophecies.

Jesus, King on David's Throne

The prophecies, foretelling that Christ would be of David's seed and sit on David's throne forever, began with Samuel prophesying for God to a young king, David, in 1 Chron 17:12-14:

He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. 14 I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever."

God also includes the details of Christ's rejection and suffering. Yet, 2 Sam 7:14-16 assures that David's kingdom would endure and that his throne would remain forever:

"14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

This is the prophecy that Ps 2:7 repeated, asserting the Christ was to be the son of God, on the throne of David:

7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your Father."

Heb 1:5 is a specific fulfillment of this prophecy in Jesus:

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"?

Heb 1:8 describes Jesus as the son who fulfills Ps 45:6. The prophecy in Ps 45:6 reads:

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Heb 1:8 directly teaches the fulfillment is in Jesus:

8 But about the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

There can be no mistake about it: Jesus was the son of God raised to the throne of David, ruling over God's kingdom forever.

Jesus, High Priest on Melchizedek's Throne

In addition to being King on David's throne, Christ was raised to sit on the throne as high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

The prophecy begins in Ps 110:4-6:

4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."
5 The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.
6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth."

In Heb 5:5-6, the prophecy of the Old Testament finds its exact meaning in Christ as son and high priest:

5 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,
"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father."
6 And he says in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."

The Hebrew writer is designating Christ as the fulfillment of these prophecies by the time that he is writing Hebrews. Christ is high priest forever.

This study has amply proven that Christ became king on his throne at his resurrection from the dead. The Bible is just as clear about exactly when he sat on his priestly throne.

Jesus Christ: Priest upon His Throne

The issue of when Jesus sat upon his royal throne as king and on his priestly throne as high priest stands at the heart of premillennialism. Does the Bible teach that Jesus is yet to come to establish an earthly kingdom and reign over it in Jerusalem for a thousand years?

Zechariah, God's inspired spokesman, wrote about the work of the Messiah. In Zech. 6:12-13, through His prophet Zechariah God struck a deathblow to the doctrine of premillennialism. This doctrine holds that Christ is yet to come to reign over his kingdom on earth for the 1,000 years. Zechariah wrote in Zech 6:11-13:

11 Take the silver and gold and make a **crown**, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak. 12 Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the **Branch**, and he will branch out from his place and build the **temple** of the Lord. 13 It is he who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with **majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.**' [Emphasis added.]

Premillennialists teach that Christ functions as a priest now, as Heb. 4:15 clearly shows, but that he is not reigning as king now. They say that Christ will begin his reign as king when he returns. But Zechariah said, "He will be a priest upon his throne." At the same time Christ serves as high priest, he sits upon his throne. If Christ is high priest now, he is king now. If he is king now, his kingdom *exists now* here upon the earth and *now* in heaven.

God told Zechariah to place two crowns on the head of Joshua, the high priest in Zech. 6:10-11:

10 "Take [silver and gold] from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. 11 Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak.

Joshua, with the two crowns was a type of the Branch—the Christ. The two crowns represent the two positions filled by the true Branch. The two-tiered crown represents the simultaneous kingship and high priesthood of Christ.

This is the prophecy. The fulfillment of the prophecy begins in Luke 1:32-33 where the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary:

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Peter said God's prophecy was fulfilled when Christ was raised to sit on David's throne: Acts 2:29-33:

29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his **throne**. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the **resurrection** of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 **God has raised this Jesus to life**, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 **Exalted to the right hand of God**, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. [Emphasis added.]

Peter summarized the full meaning of the Messianic prophecies in 1 Peter 2:4-5 as they are fulfilled in those who come to him:

As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As we come to the Lord, we are built into a spiritual house – a holy priesthood, according to Peter who quotes the prophet Isaiah in Isa 28:16

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."

In 1 Peter 2:7-8, Peter quotes Ps 118:22 and Isa 8:14, where those who do not believe and who disobey reject the eternal Christ:

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.

But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,"

8 and,

"A stone that causes men to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

Peter's conclusion is that 1 Pet 2:9-10 makes forever the church of Christ the temple of God with Christians as the chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation (kingdom):

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of prophecy can never be more certain: Christians are now the people of God. All speculations about a future kingdom are private interpretations and false teachings, demeaning God and his word and rejecting the Christ – KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Study Questions from the Scriptures

1. 2 Sam 7:12-14: When would God raise up David's offspring? How long would his kingdom last?
2. Ps 110:1-2: Where does the Lord sit? Where are his enemies?
3. Eph 1:19-23: What happened when God exerted his mighty strength? Where is the right hand of God? What is the fullness of Christ?
4. Ps 2:1-3: What are the conditions of Christ's rule? Who is against the Lord and the anointed one?
5. Ps 2:4-6: What is the Lord doing? Where is he?
6. Psalm 2:7-8: What does the Lord inherit? What does he possess?

7. Acts 13:32-34: By what did God fulfill his promise to the fathers? What Old Testament passage did Paul quote? What is a fact stated in verse 34?
8. Ps 2:9: With what will Christ rule? To what are the Lord's enemies compared?
9. Rev 2:26-28: To what church is Christ speaking? What do those who overcome receive? What Old Testament prophecy does Christ quote?
10. Matt 28:18: When and where did Christ say that he received all authority?
11. Matt 19:28: When will the followers of Christ sit on their thrones?
12. Titus 3:4-7: When and how did Christ save us?
13. Rev 12:5: Who was snatched up (caught up) to God? With what would he rule?
14. Rev 19:15-16: What comes out of the mouth of the Lord? What does he do with it? What name is on his robe and thigh?
15. 1 Chron 17:12-14: How long will the son's throne last? Over whose house and kingdom does the son sit?
16. 2 Sam 7:14-16: How will people receive the son?
17. Heb 1:8: What prophecy is fulfilled by this passage? What does God say about his son?
18. Ps 110:4-6: Where is this passage fulfilled? How long will the son be a priest? After what order is Christ's priesthood?
19. Zech 6:12-13: What two things will the branch do on his throne? Who will build the temple of the Lord?
20. Heb. 4:15: Who is priest on his throne?
21. Luke 1:32-33: Whose throne was Mary's son to receive? How long will his kingdom last?
22. Acts 2:29-33: When did David's descendant sit upon his throne?