

# **Bible Study on Psalms**

## **Messianic Psalms – Christ is the Heart of the Psalms**

### **Psalm 2**

1. Verses 1 and 2 describe the plotting of earthly kings and rulers against God and “His Anointed One.”
  - a. In these verses from Acts 4, Peter describes the fulfillment of verses 1-2 as a conspiracy of Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the Jews who are all united against Jesus and thus participated in his crucifixion.
  - b. David was anointed king of Judah and was thus God’s “anointed one,” God’s representative on earth and a type (or picture) of the coming Messiah. Jesus claims the title “Anointed One” in the Luke 4 passage. He is the one to whom all the Messianic psalms point.
2. People today “break God’s chains” and “throw off God’s fetters and ignoring God’s Word and by choosing lifestyles that defy God’s will. Those who teach things other than the pure Word of God also break God’s chains.
3. In righteous anger, God mocks and rebukes those who rebel against him and his Son. Because God is the one, true God, he has every right to be angry at those who willfully reject him. Those who break away from God and his rule will be judged and will receive his wrath.
4. No earthly king could fulfill the promise mentioned in these verses. Its complete fulfillment awaits the coming of Christ on the last day.
5. These verses warn the kings and rulers of the earth to serve the Lord by obeying him and submitting to him. Those who do so will be blessed. The phrase “kiss the Son” refers to the greeting friend and allies in the Mideast still use as a sign of friendship.

### **Psalm 16**

Read Psalm 16 and work through these questions.

1. David says that apart from God, he has nothing.
2. Peter and Paul quote Ps. 16:8-11 as proof of Jesus’ resurrection. Both men spoke to largely Jewish audiences, and they quoted these verses to remind the people of David’s words that foretold that God would not allow Jesus’ body to decay, but instead, would raise him from the dead. David’s body did die and decay, so this psalm makes sense only when we apply it to the Lord Jesus.

3. Knowing that we have eternal life in Jesus, we can live in confidence today, secure in his love. We can boldly share God's saving love with others by the power of the Holy Spirit. Knowing that we have eternal life, we no longer heed to fear death as the end. Death is rather a passage for us from this life on earth to our new, perfect life in heaven. We can be certain that God will be with us as we step through the doorway of physical death from this life into the next. We can look forward with joy to living in God's presence for eternity in heaven.

### **Psalm 22**

1. No other psalm is quoted more frequently in the NT. Find the references below to discover the events from Jesus' crucifixion mentioned in Psalm 22.
  - a. Jesus' prayer on the cross.
  - b. The scorn and mockery Jesus endured – especially the head shaking.
  - c. The words of mockery "Let God rescue him."
  - d. Jesus' thirst.
  - e. The mechanical process of crucifixion itself – the piercing of hands and feet.
  - f. The casting of lots for Jesus' clothing.
2. Despite his distress, the psalmist remembers many truths about God. He remembers that God is the Holy One (v. 3). He remembers the trust his fathers placed in God and that God delivered them (v. 4). The psalmist also remembers that he belongs to God, and that is the one who brought him into the world.
3. Verses 22-31 reflect the glory of Jesus after his resurrection. For 40 days he shows himself alive to his followers after God raised him from the dead. Now, we are the brothers and sisters of Christ. He has declared God's name to us; we respond by praising God and witnessing to his grace ourselves. "All the ends of the earth" (v. 27) will hear his witness. Those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6), "eat" and "[are] satisfied" (Ps. 22:26), and our hearts will "live forever!"

### **Psalm 110**

1. Jesus is David's Lord. Verse 1 states that Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God and shares authority with God. While Jesus was David's descendant, Jesus is Lord, as well as the Lord over all the earth.
2. The words "under his feet" are a figure of speech from the OT that describes complete conquest. The "footstool" was the lower part of the king's throne. God made Christ's enemies his "footstool"; this meant that God placed the king (in this case, Jesus) over all his enemies, including death. This verse, as well as verse 2, point out that Jesus is king and ruler over all.
3. God invites David "to sit at my right hand," a place of honor beside the King. The King's mighty power and protection extend to those who sit at his right hand. So, too, Jesus

invites all who are burdened to come to him (Matthew 11:28-30) so that he might give them rest.

4. Old Testament priests were far from perfect. Because they were sinners, they had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before they could offer sacrifices for anyone else. They didn't continue in office forever because they were subject to physical death. Then, too, the sacrifices they offered were only temporary coverings for sin. But Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God, because he lives forever as our permanent Priest. As our eternal High Priest, Jesus intercedes for us to God. Because Jesus is holy, perfect, and pure, he needed to offer one sacrifice for all our sins. Jesus did this when he gave his life for us on the cross. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has defeated Satan and has gained for us the victory over all our enemies.
5. Since the "Lord is at your right hand," no one and no nation will be able to harm you. God is in control.

After reading and rereading a psalm, ask yourself these questions. What words or phrases stick out to you? How do these words or phrases reveal the poet's purpose for the psalm? What effect does this psalm have on you as you meditate on it?