

The PSALMS of David – Lesson 2

David as a Prophet of God:

Often the NT writers apply quotations from the Psalms to Jesus. Not all these Prophetic Psalms come from the pen of David, but many do. Below are just 4 of David's Messianic Psalms, of which there are perhaps a dozen more (note: in total there are at least 25 Prophetic Messianic Psalms in the Psalter, many through David by the Spirit; see Acts 4:25-28). In this lesson four Psalms will be studied: Ps 2, 16, 22, 110. You will find that these 4 plus other Psalms often quoted in the New Testament. Read the Psalms and answer the associated questions.

Psalm 2

Note: The author is not given nor title to explain its context or use, though it was doubtless used in ancient Judaism to refer to the David as king. The New Testament, however, confirms these are the words of David in Acts 2:24-25. Read Psalm 2 and answer following questions.

1. What verses from Psalm 2 are quoted in Acts 2?
2. How do you see verse 2 relating to Jesus' day?
3. How do you see verse 2 relating to world events today?
4. According to verse 4 how does God respond to those who plot against Him?
5. What advice does David give to earthly rulers in verses 10-11?
6. What does Psalm 2 teach us about Yahweh's "anointed" king?
7. Why do you think the apostles saw this passage as referring to Jesus the Messiah?
8. What does the passage teach about the importance of submission to Jesus the Christ before it is too late?

PSALM 2 COMMENTARY:

In Revelation this spiritual rebellion against God and his Messiah is couched in terms of the woman and her male child (Revelation 12:1-6), the battle between the archangel Michael and the dragon (Revelation 12:7-17), the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 13), and the Whore of Babylon (Revelation 17). It is a spiritual battle fought in heavenly places.

Psalm 16

This Psalm is a key to show that the resurrection is not just a myth but in truth something that God had pre-planned. Without the resurrection, the hope of all believers is in vain. (See Acts 2:24-31)

1. What does it mean to take refuge in God?
2. What are other things people may take refuge in?
3. Share an example of a challenging or dangerous situation where you needed to turn to God for help?
4. What do we see about David's attitude toward God in verse 2?
5. What are some good things you have received from the Lord lately?
6. How does it affect our outlook and attitude when we know everything good we have is from God?

Psalm 22

My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Note: This Psalm is a lament followed by a hymn of praise. It must be clearly seen as a psalm pointing again and again to the crucifixion of Christ. Read the Psalm and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus spoke the words of Psalm 22:1?
2. What was he seeking to express?
3. What was he feeling?
4. How did God answer his plea?
5. What similarities do you see between the words of Psalm 22 and the events of Jesus' crucifixion?
6. Do you think Jesus understood Psalm 22 as referring to himself?
7. Why do you think the Spirit inspired David to pen these words?

Psalm 110

David as Prophet and King – Jesus as Prophet, King, and Priest

It is Jesus himself who pointed to this psalm as one that refers to the Messiah as recorded in Matthew 22:41-47. Read Psalm 110 and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think that Jesus asked the Pharisees about verse 1, "If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son? What point was Jesus making?"
2. How does Jesus combine the roles of Warrior-King and Priest in his ministry to us and to this world?
3. How do you reconcile the violence suggested in verses 5-6 with Jesus as "Prince of Peace"?
4. What do you know about Melchizedek mentioned in verse 4 and where is he encountered in the Bible (give book/chapter/verses)?

SUMMARIZING THE 4 PROPHETIC PSALMS OF DAVID:

1. Underline the verses in the Old Testament and then copy the reference given for the New Testament in the margin next to the verse in your Bible (if so inclined).

Psalm 2:1-2	Acts 4:25-26
Psalm 2:7	Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5
Psalm 16:8-11	Acts 2:25-28
Psalm 16:10	Acts 13:35
Psalm 22:1	Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34
Psalm 22:7	Mark 15:29
Psalm 22:8	Matt. 27:43
Psalm 22:22	Heb. 2:12
Psalm 110:1	Matt. 22:44; Acts 2:34-35; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:13
Psalm 110 4	Heb. 7:17,21

2. Write on this sheet next to the NT verses above what part of Jesus' life the quote from the Psalm refers to (example: Jesus' rule, the cross, Jesus' opposition, His resurrection, etc.).