

Insights from the Psalms concerning Jesus and His Return

Prepared for October 1st & 2nd 2008 by: Bethyl Joy Shepperson

If you learned the little chorus, **I'm on the Rock**, sing it with me: ***I'm on the Rock, Hallelujah! I'm on the Rock to stay...hallelujah... For He lifted me from the miry clay. I'm on the Rock to stay!***

The **Rock Relationship Perspective** tells me the reality of who I am, what IS happening, and what's going to happen. WHEN **you and I believe and trust in The Rock**, the news on T.V. and in the newspaper can lead us to join God's laughter in Psalm 2—but we'll talk more of that later.

The **Psalms are full of Christ**. Did you know that the picture of Him in the Psalms is greater than in all the Gospels. The Gospels tell us that He went to the mountain to pray, but the Psalms give us His prayer. The Gospels tell us that He was crucified, but the Psalms tell us what went on in His own heart during the Crucifixion. The Gospels tell us He went back to heaven, but the Psalms begin where the Gospels leave off and show us Christ seated in heaven. Isn't this amazing? Gives another point of view to ***He's got the whole world in His Hands!***

Christ the Messiah is **prominent through this book**. By the time Jesus said, ***"These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me"***... He had studied the Scriptures thoroughly. Each step and word of His, lived out "all that had been written hundreds of years before His birth." And, we know, He did not do any of this because He had retained His heavenly powers and position. It all happened because He intimately, faithfully talked to His Father in heaven. And, everything you and I do for Him also, we do **because we lean into His Chest and require He direct us in the path of righteousness** – for His Name's sake— and, that's the ONLY way any of us do anything for Him.

Christ is the subject of the Psalms. As such, He's the object of praise in every one of them whether or not you or I can locate Him in each one. While the psalms have Christ as the object of worship, some are technically called messianic

psalms. These record the birth, life, death, resurrection, glory, priesthood, kingship, and return of Christ. There are 16 messianic psalms that speak specifically about Christ. The Book of Psalms is a hymnbook and a HIM book—it is all about Him.

And, **the design** is to teach us to do one thing – **to worship Him**. They reflect every human emotion, but do so in a distinct and important way: they are **emotions seen in relationship to God**. We might say they are teachers on the topic of honesty ~ open, heart honesty with God. Sometimes that means “open-heart surgery!” But, such is the nature of “worship,” isn’t it? And such is the characteristic of genuine relationships.

In a more **restrictive** sense, the Psalms reveal a particular relationship of Christ belonging to Israel and Israel belonging to Christ. Both sides of this relationship are connected to the rebellion of man. And... there won’t be blessing or resolution of peace on this earth until Israel and Christ are brought together. The Psalms are Jewish in expectation and hope. They are songs which were adapted to temple worship. This doesn’t mean there’s no spiritual application and interpretation for us today. There is! Many of us turn to them more than any other portion of God’s Word. But the help and comfort we receive doesn’t mean that the relational perspective that belongs to Israel and Christ, is set aside. While in Israel, several times I heard Messianic Jews say, “go ahead and use that Scripture, in psalms and passages in Romans, but when you are done, please put it back. God is still working out His purposes for Israel.”

Some differences are these: In Psalms, God is not spoken of as a Father. The saints are not called sons. In the Psalms, He is God the Father, not the Father God. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit and the blessed hope of the New Testament are not in this book. Recognition of this can help us as we learn from God’s Word. And, failure to recognize could lead to some misinterpretations.

Now, let’s look at some passages as they tell us more specifically the picture of Christ.

Psalms 2. As crowned King He receives His inheritance. *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the*

earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2:8-9)

Psalm 2 pictures Christ as the man of destiny, the focal point of all history. *Everyone-- nation, tribe, people, every individual -- will find its value or its lack of value in how it relates to the Son.*

God declares, “*I’ve installed my King on Zion*”. The rebelling generations bulk! And, God? He sits in the heavens and shall laugh. God isn’t afraid, confused, or depressed about man’s oppositional attitudes! He’s not pacing back and forth in the throne room of heaven, wondering what He should do next.

From His throne in heaven, He sits-- in perfect peace and assurance-- exercising His authority over all creation. What does heaven have to fear from earth? He’s not counting the enemy, nor calculating whether or not He has sufficient force to counter this new challenge to His kingdom. He doesn’t even rise. He laughs! His laughter is full of the might of holiness...of the strength of love. But, He doesn’t *only* laugh. Before He acts against defiant men, He first *speaks* to them.

Showing His great mercy, He speaks a word of warning before He acts. “**I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.**” He wants defiant men, *particularly the kings and rulers...* to know there is a King greater than they are. Maybe He says, “Can you hear Me now?”

Next, the Lord’s Anointed Himself speaks, declaring the decree which God the Father spoke to Him: ***You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance.*** Hebrews 1:5 quotes this as evidence of the deity of Jesus and His superiority to all angels. Hebrews says, The Anointed One receives a *more excellent name* -- **Son**. Further, He’s the Begotten Son, describing a relationship between 2 beings of the same essential nature and being. He’s not created. The LORD’s Anointed holds the nations as His inheritance. He holds such power over the nations that they are like clay pots that he can shatter with a blow from a rod of iron. Rather foolish of nations to defy the LORD. But, it’s been happening... a very long time!

In May, Vance, my husband, and I attended some training in an assembly on Mount Carmel in Israel. Jews, Arabs, and Gentiles—together-- all worshipping Yeshua. It was a special experience to be in the middle of a growing movement—a prophecy-fulfilling example – the Jews and Arabs actually reconciled-- accepting Gentiles – becoming **“one new man” in Christ**. Their ID cards were shredded; their division healed through Jesus.

Here’s some of what we heard:

Today we see an increasing number of “political” dancing partners cavorting upon the Land of Israel... dancing around their golden calves of secular humanism, political ambition, and good intentions. Israel’s lack of peace is not political. It is spiritual. Don’t be confused or swayed by what you see or hear on the news. These nations are dancing on God’s covenanted Land to Israel. They plan to cut it up in quest of false peace. The partners have changed over the years, but the dance is the same old dance.

*The nations who are pressing Israel toward a national suicide will be severely judged by the God of Abraham, Issac, and Israel. So will the nation of Israel be judged for willingly joining the dance. **The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing!***

God has another vision for Israel. Psalm 33:10-11 says, *“the counsel of the Lord stands forever.” There is coming a joyous celebration of new life in Jesus, danced upon the mountains of Israel, as Jews and Arabs, rejoice in their Messiah.* This is what is happening in a growing congregation on the top of Mount Carmel where Elijah confronted the 400 prophets of Baal. These Jewish-Arabic-Gentile believers dance on this same mountain of Carmel. They are worshipping the God of Abraham, Issac, and Israel... together...rejoicing in their Messiah, Yeshua, God’s one and only Son. They are ***trusting the Lord and standing upon Psalm 2 concerning the current situation for their nation.***

Psalms 2 warns, ***rulers and kings, be wise; be warned! Kiss the Son***, lest He be angry, and you be destroyed...his wrath can flare up in a moment. ***Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.***

God is still giving time. **Being wakeful** is what He's requiring: Pray Psalm 25:22 *"Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!"* Pray Psalm 122. Obey verse 6! *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you be secure. V. 7 & 8: Peace be within you."* Plead verse 9 on behalf of Israel and Jerusalem—*"For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity."*

Psalm 18. So universal is His sovereignty, that people feign obedience. *"As soon as they hear of me, they obey me; and the foreigners cringe before me. They all lose heart...come trembling from their strongholds"* And v. 46, *The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock!"* (Psalm 18:43,44.)

Psalm 22. He will be supreme Governor. *"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord; and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He is the Governor among the nations."* (vrs. 27, 28). You can trace the effect of this power, as it moves across the face of the whole earth... *"all families of the nations SHALL WORSHIP before Him."*

It's the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission that His Gospel shall be preached to all nations. And out of every tribe and nation shall come those who respond, who fear him, because God is the ruler of all. He will see to it that His message reaches all men. And, it's happening today. Men and women from every tribe and nation are coming to Christ.

My eyes are being opened. We have seen with our own eyes, heard with our own ears, in several places in the Middle East and in Kyrgyzstan, among many Russian speaking believers... not just sending-nation missionaries, but believers from the nations themselves... this is their message: "Jesus came to me in my dream!" "I heard Him and He spoke to me." "Now my family is come to know Jesus, too." They are becoming the missionaries to their own families, in their cities and countries.

God declares *"posterity shall serve Him"* in Psalm 22:30. *Future generations will be told—these will tell His righteousness to a people not yet born! He has done it!* Are these not amazing words? – v. 31 *God will see to it.* What's so amazing is these words were written hundreds of years ago and it is happening today – it was written in the past tense as though it was done... and it is happening—thus fulfilling the prophecy and will of God.

Psalm 50 **He will break the long silence which Heaven has observed.** *"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence...He shall call to the heavens above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have a covenant with me by sacrifice."* (Psalm 50:3-5)

Psalm 72 **His reign is unlimited.** *"All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him."* (Psalm 72:11, 17). A magnificent psalm describing the reign of Christ over all the earth. One of the greatest shouts of triumph in the entire Bible.

Psalm 86 **He is worshipped and glorified everywhere.** *"All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name."* (Psalm 86:9)

Psalm 96 **He shall have the homage of inanimate creation.** *"Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth."* (Psalm 96:12-13)

Psalm 102 **He shall appear in glory to build up Zion, and then to gather the people at large, and the kingdoms to serve Him.** *"When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in glory...When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms to serve the Lord."* (Psalm 102:16, 22)

Psalm 146 **The Lord shall reign for ever,** *even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations."* (Psalm 146:10)

Insights

Enjoy the comfort, direction, solace that Christ gives in the Psalms, worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth. Be aware that Jews and Israel continue to duke it out—rebellious attitudes are embedded in them and in all mankind. **God has said what He will do, and He will do what He said.**

The King will receive His inheritance. His sovereignty is universal and, if needed, people will cringe in giving up their own sovereignty and make Him Lord. He's the supreme Governor. He will break the long silence. His rein is unlimited. He's worshipped and glorified everywhere. Even inanimate creation will rejoice before Him. He's going to appear and build up Zion, gather His people; and the kingdoms shall serve Him. And, ...***He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!***