

# PSALMS OF THE SEASON

## Expositional Study Of Enthronement Psalms

*Feared Up?*

Or

*Faithed Up?*

*Psalm 110*

*December 29, 2013*



Throughout history, mankind has devised kingdoms ranging from pure statist power to pure religious power, and a combination of both of these to varying degrees. According to Revelation 13, the final manmade political system on earth, which will be devised by the Anti-Christ, who is inspired by Satan, will be a complete wedding of the state and religion, with the people of the State being commanded to worship the Anti-Christ as the Supreme ruler. After explaining how this end-times world empire will be composed of the strengths of the Babylonian (viz., majesty), Medo-Persian (viz., tenacity), and Grecian (swiftness and speed as evidenced in the life of Alexander the Great) empires, John, by way of divine inspiration writes:

<sup>4</sup> they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" <sup>5</sup> There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. <sup>6</sup> And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who <sup>1</sup>dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> It was also given to him to make

war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain (Revelation 13).

The world will worship this ruler of rulers, leader of leaders, and politician of all politicians, who will derive his powers from the Devil himself, and together he, along with the Devil and his sidekick, the False Prophet, will form the Satanic trinity. Their goal? To guide all worship away from the living God toward this blasphemous Trinitarian structure and to permanently silence any Christians who'd dare speak up and out against their twisted teachings and acrid activities.

Today the world is being primed for this last King. With every media attack on those believers who courageously speak against the immorality in our culture, to the ever increasing intrusion of the government into our lives based on the premise of our protection and safety, from the fragile nature of national economies like that of Greece, to the clamoring of Islamists to establish a world caliphate and erect slavish sharia laws over their foes, we are merely being primed for the final leader who will create a kingdom the world will be convinced is the essence of utopia itself. They couldn't be more wrong. His political and religious empire will culminate in the worship of a Satan inspired man, leading mankind, therefore, into bondage, fear, and complete dystopia.

Anyone who walks with the living God, reads and studies their Bible, and analyzes the news ... to even a limited degree ... can see where we are headed, not just as a nation, which is all of a sudden consumed with Statist power, but where the world, in all of its political unrest is headed. It's headed at light speed toward the most dangerous and deceptive leader the world has ever known, a leader who will come across as the Prince of Peace, but who will, in all reality, be the Prince of Perversion, in every sense of the word.

Knowing what is coming down the proverbial pike could make you somewhat uneasy, even fearful, especially as you are able to start connecting some of the prophesied dots concerning what the end-times will be like. Should this apply to you, as a Christian, I am here to tell you at the close of one year and opening of another year that according to Psalm one thing is true:

## Don't Be Fear Up! Be Faithed Up! (Psalm 110)

Why should you be fearless? Simple. You should be fearless because of two positive prophetic reasons we find buried in the rich soil of this messianic psalm. We covered the first reason in our last study:

### Reason #1: Be Faithed Up Because The King Comes (Psalm 110:1-3)

Who is the coming king? He is the King and Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus, the Messiah, who will come to decimate and destroy the Satanically inspired world political systems once and for all, and who will also erect the true utopian kingdom, known for peace and holiness (Revelation 19, as referenced in our last study). Presently, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, watching the Father work providentially in world events to bring about the demise of all inferior political systems and the establishment of His superior system promised to David and

communicated through numerous prophets (cf. 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Daniel 7:13-14; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11; Micah 4:1-9; 5:1-2; Habakkuk 3:3; Zephaniah 3:14-20). No wonder John said what he said at the close of the book of Revelation when he witnessed, by way of divine revelation, how the Lord will bring His kingdom promise to fulfillment in the most ominous but glorious fashion:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20).

All saints, I'm sure, echo this precious prayer. We, of all people, have inexorable hope, regardless of what's going on politically, economically, and spiritually all around us because we know that the King is coming ... and as He told John in the sentence before this last verse, "I am coming quickly." I don't know about you, but I am thankful for a messianic psalm like Psalm 110 which reminds me of this timeless truth. But, there is more reason for hope packed into this ancient psalm than we have studied. A second reason is readily apparent in verses 4 through 7.

## Reason #2: Be Faithed Up Because The Priest Comes (Psalm 110:4-7)

This is not just any priest, but THE Priest, really THE High Priest of all High Priests, Jesus Christ. To get acquainted with Him and His future activity in dealing with the Devil, I invite you to read the inspired, highly prophetic text with me:

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." <sup>5</sup> The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. <sup>6</sup> He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. <sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.

From these amazing, enlightening verses we can isolate three distinct descriptions about this coming One:

*The Person Of The Priest (Psalm 110:4.* Here the eternal God, the I AM, who is above all time and space, who lives outside of and who created our cause and effect cosmos, gave David, and all of us as saints, a solemn oath. Interestingly enough, the word for swear, viz., *sheba* (שָׁבַע) is literally translated "seven," which is the number of perfection, thereby, denoting God. This word is the typical Hebrew word for seven; however, because of its association with God's perfection and person, Israelites used it as the word for oaths or swearing. Why? Because to use this particular number with its divine status meant those who swore did so in relation to the living God who would hold them accountable for their word. This is how the word is used when Abraham sealed an oath with Abimelech that a well of water was his (Genesis 21:28-30). By using this sacred oath, which, by definition, denoted deity and perfection, God underscored to David that the promise He was about to give Him had no imperfections about it, nor could it ever be circumvented.

What, therefore, did the LORD promise to David and, ultimately, all saints? He promised that the messianic King of the previous verses would also be an eternal Melchizedekian priest. A what? Since this concept is probably new to many of you, it bears our

close and careful analysis. It also calls for our scriptural scrutiny because of its eschatological importance.

To begin with, let us isolate who this is, exactly.

Melchizedek, whose name is comprised of two Hebrew words meaning king (*melech*) and righteousness (*zedek*), was the God-fearing king/priest over Salem (Genesis 14:18), or ancient Jerusalem, to whom Abraham paid tithes to after he defeated opposing foes who had captured his nephew, Lot (Genesis 14:20). Amazing. This mysterious man enters and exits biblical history so fast we almost miss him. God quickly and strategically placed him on the world scene in Abraham's day so that some 2,000 years later his office could become the office of the eternal Messiah.

The book of Hebrews develops the eternal nature of the Messiah as a Melchizedekian priest in chapter 7. In this chapter, the author contrasts the temporal nature of the Aaronic priesthood with that of the perpetual Melchizedekian priesthood, a priesthood which pre-dated the Aaronic. It is not our purpose to completely develop all of the author's fantastic points in this passage; hence, we shall limit our observations to a few salient, instructive verses:

<sup>1</sup> For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. <sup>3</sup> Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually (Hebrews 7).

Genealogical lists were/are important to Jews, and this was especially true when it came to the priesthood. Yet, in relation to this unique priest there is no intricate Old Testament genealogy, and we do not even know who his father and mother were.<sup>1</sup> According to God this was/is purposeful because it presents him as if he were an eternal person. Indeed, he was only a man, however, he was, in this sense, "made like the Son of God," who is most certainly eternal. By default, then, this makes his priesthood better than the Aaronic one because that one was composed of men who lived and died, and whose priesthood was never divinely designed to be perpetual. For all divine intents and purposes it was, and is, as if this pristine priesthood was/is eternal from God's lofty perspective.

Later, the author of Hebrews moves to state to his Jewish audience that Jesus is, as God prophesied through the Psalmist in chapter 110:4, the complete fulfillment of this one of a kind, eternal priesthood.

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<sup>1</sup> As Kent correctly observes: "To be a priest, one's father needed to be a descendant not only of Levi, but of the priestly family of Aaron within that tribe. His mother needed to be an Israelite, but not every Israelite woman was eligible. No woman who was divorced or had an immoral past could be taken as a priest's wife (Lev. 21:7), not only because it would be inappropriate for her husband, but it would provide an unworthy mother for the sons who might otherwise qualify as priest" (*Epistle to the Hebrews*: 126).

<sup>14</sup> For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. <sup>15</sup> And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, <sup>16</sup> who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life. <sup>17</sup> For it is attested of Him, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

The point is well-taken: Jesus, as the eternal God (John 8:58; Colossians 1:16-17), perfectly fits the role as the final Melchizedekian priest because He lives eternally. Logically, this means that the old Aaronic priesthood was destined for dismantling.

<sup>18</sup> For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness <sup>19</sup> (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. <sup>20</sup> And inasmuch as it was not without an oath <sup>21</sup> (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER.'")

To none of these ancient priests did the Lord ever promise to make them an eternal priesthood. That oath was only given to the Messiah, as Psalm 110:4 clearly states, and it is an oath God has fulfilled because Christ is now our eternal High Priest. The superior nature of His role as an eternal High Priest of the Melchizedekian line, and what He now does for His subjects, His saints, is clearly articulated in the ensuing verses of this intriguing chapter.

<sup>22</sup> so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup> The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, <sup>24</sup> but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

All of this just takes your breath away. He saves us forever and He always makes intercession before the Father in our behalf. What a privileged status we have! When Satan brings accusations against us before the Father, it is our eternal High Priest, Jesus, who stands ready to defend us (Job 1 gives an ancient picture of God's throne room. Cf. also 1 John 2:1). God swore through Psalm 110 to send the Messiah in this fashion, and He has fulfilled His word; however, there is so much more to the complex story. How so?

Melchizedek is theologically and eschatologically important not just because he stood as the symbol for the eternal high priesthood of the Messiah, Jesus, but also because he represented the perfect and prophesied wedding of the role of messianic king and messianic priest into one person. Zechariah prophesied about this in the chapters 3 and 6 of his work, which was written between 520 and 518 B.C., probably about 400 years after the composition of Psalm 110 and about 500 years before the birth of Jesus.

In Zechariah chapter 3, God gave this prophetic word to Joshua, the High Priest in Israel after they returned to the land after captivity:

<sup>8</sup> Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you-- indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch.

Joshua, the High Priest, and all the priests with him (your friends) were merely a symbol of the coming one God identifies as “My servant the Branch.” This could hardly be Zerubabel, the political leader of Israel in the day because he was already there. God is speaking of a future ruler. The phrase “My Servant,” is rightly capitalized because it biblically denotes the Messiah in the Old Testament (Isaiah 42:1; 49:3; 50:10; 52:13; 53:11; Ezekiel 34:23-24 ... and also Philippians 2:6-8 in the New Testament). The Branch is also capitalized because it, too, is a proper name for the Messiah who would be the king who would arise from the apparent dead stump of the Davidic kingdom (Isaiah 4:2; 11:1; 53:2; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15, and also Luke 1:78 where the word “dayspring” can also be translated “branch” with reference to Jesus). All of this, of course, hints at the fact that the coming messianic king, who will vanquish sin and Satan and establish His glorious Davidic Empire over the world, would be priestly *and* kingly. And before we move on we would be remiss if we did not point out how the High Priest, Joshua, had the Hebrew name equivalent to that of Jesus in the New Testament Greek. This was no cosmic accident, I can assure you, but was divinely designed.

When we flip over to Zechariah 6, the prophet, by way of divine utterance, shows us how the role of King and Priest will one day be combined to create the ultimate and perfect ruler of all rulers.

<sup>9</sup> The word of the LORD also came to me, saying, <sup>10</sup> Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah; and you go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have arrived from Babylon. <sup>11</sup> "Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. <sup>12</sup> Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."

Zechariah is commanded here to take an offering of gold from three returning Babylonian exiles and fashion it into a crown. After this, God directed him to do something unheard of in the Old Testament. God commanded him to place the crown on the head of Joshua, the High Priest. Shocking. High Priests never wore a regal crown, only turbans (Leviticus 8:1-9; 16:1-4). Clearly, throughout the period of the kings in Israel, no king could also serve as priest. That was, to employ a little German, verboten. However, in the case of the Branch, which is the code word for the Messiah (Zechariah 3:8; Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15), the two offices of king and priest would be united eternally. Yes, He would not just build a temple beyond anything Zerubabel has constructed (Ezekiel 40-43), He would be the first and last Davidic King and High Priest, thereby demonstrating that He, and He alone, could bring His kingdom of peace and holiness to an earth which has only known unrest and sin.

This, my friends, is why we, as saints, do not need to be feared up but faithed up! The king who is coming is King Jesus, and He's also more than a king, He's the eternal High Priest. And as Priest He will deal with sin and Satan, and will then set out to build a kingdom to beat all kingdoms, a kingdom which will exist in an environment Edenic in nature and populated by people who love and honor God. He will do what mankind, in his sinful status and beset by the Devil, could never do: wed a political king and religious priest into one seamless, positive, and peaceful role. I feel like reciting John's words, don't you? Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

A second description about this divine High Priest unfolds how He establishes His Empire:

*The Power Of The Priest (Psalm 110:5-6).* The High Priest, Jesus, has His own power as the second member of the trinity to deal with the Devil and his forces; however, as we read here, the Father would also be His backup, making sure victory will be realized:

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. <sup>6</sup> He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.

God warns us that a day of reckoning is coming, a day of His holy wrath, a day when He will judge the nations which have opposed Him and His people (Isaiah 2:10-21; Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:7-18; Romans 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10). As Jesus teaches in Matthew, people will shrug off this coming cataclysm as easily as they rebuffed Noah in his day who went around warning folks of a coming judgment (Matthew 24-25). But that day is coming when the messianic King/Priest will appear and purge the earth of the wicked nations, nations who have opposed him from day one.

Joel gives us a glimpse regarding this divine day.

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim this among the nations : Prepare a war ; rouse the mighty men ! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! <sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears ; Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man." <sup>11</sup> Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones. <sup>12</sup> Let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations. <sup>13</sup> Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full ; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. <sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision ! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. <sup>15</sup> The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness. <sup>16</sup> The LORD roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will pass through it no more (Joel 3).

Obviously, this has yet to occur. When Jesus returns as the King/Priest, He, who is from the line of Judah, will roar like a mighty, powerful lion (Genesis 49:9) as the lights in the cosmos are quickly dimmed in order to showcase His brilliant glory. And when He is finished, the sinful

and Satanically inspired world system, composed of the Satanic trinity, which will be consumed on wiping out Jews and Christians, will be thoroughly routed and the Lord will rule and reign from Jerusalem, as prophesied (Isaiah 2).

If that does not get you faithed up, I do not know what will! Darkness shall not always prevail. Wickedness will not always seem to have the upper hand. Perversion will not always pervert holy, sacred people and things. Governments will not always move away from biblical moorings and adopt man-centered governing concepts. Leaders will not always get away with their despotic ways. False religions will not always be favored over Christianity by the masses. No, the day of reckoning is coming and it culminates in the construction of the long-awaited Davidic kingdom with the perfect King/Priest, Jesus, seated comfortably upon a throne to end all thrones.

For those who might have trouble seeing a priest acting in a warlike fashion, then I direct you to the priest, Jehoiada. In his day, Athaliah seized the Davidic throne when her son, Ahaziah, the king, died from a battle wound (2 Kings 9:27). She, then, moved ruthlessly to consolidate her power by executing all the male sons in the Davidic line. Imagine the debts of darkness for her quest for power. She killed her grandsons.

Enter Jehosheba, the wife of the priest, Jehoiada. She snatched up little Joash (2 Kings 11:2), and hid him in the Temple for six long years. In the seventh year, Jehoiada constructed a plan with trusted military men to depose wicked Athaliah, and then he armed them so they could carry out the maneuver (2 Kings 11:10). We'll pick up the story in verse 11:

<sup>11</sup> The guards stood each with his weapons in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, by the altar and by the house, around the king.

<sup>12</sup> Then he brought the king's son out and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony ; and they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king !" <sup>13</sup> When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people in the house of the LORD. <sup>14</sup> She looked and behold, the king was standing by the pillar, according to the custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason ! Treason !" <sup>15</sup> And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds who were appointed over the army and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks, and whoever follows her put to death with the sword." For the priest said, "Let her not be put to death in the house of the LORD." <sup>16</sup> So they seized her, and when she arrived at the horses' entrance of the king's house, she was put to death there.

After this, false worship was purged from Israel and Joash was placed upon the throne as the rightful Davidic king. And to think the Davidic line was almost wiped out by one wicked woman. God outfoxed her by saving one boy who would put down evil and become the Davidic king, and it all started with the work of a priest. God is going to outfox the Devil and his false world ruler at the end of time as well, and it will come through a priest with way more power than Jehoiada ever had at his disposal.

When that priest, Jesus, deals with a world ruler far more sinister than Athaliah, He will waste no time establishing His long-awaited kingdom of peace and holiness. This premise is developed in the concluding verse of the messianic passage. I call it ...



## The Position Of The Priest (Psalm 110:7)

To understand His position we must first read the verse:

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.

What does this mean? I highly doubt this powerful messianic passage ends with the messianic king/priest just getting a drink from a stream. I side with scholars like Roland de Vaux who view this as the Gihon Spring in Jerusalem<sup>2</sup>, which was one of the main sources of water for the city.<sup>3</sup> At this life-giving spring was where Solomon was anointed and consecrated as the Davidic king:

<sup>38</sup> So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. <sup>39</sup> Zadok the priest then took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, Long live King Solomon!" <sup>40</sup> All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise (1 Kings 1).

When the kingdom has come, don't you know there is going to be a coronation day like this of earth has never seen before! There will be music, singing, and shouts of joy as each of us see Him assume the throne of David in Jerusalem.

And you're feared up right now? Why? You need to be faithed up because the Priest is coming. Sure, times of great darkness are just up the road for the world, but that darkness will be broken by the One godly people have waited for thousands of years to see face to face. His name is Jesus Christ, and He will rule upon the throne of His father, David, just as the Heavenly Father has promised.

Again, I can't help but pray like John: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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<sup>2</sup> A.A. Anderson, *The New Century Bible Commentary: Psalms 73-150* (Grand Rapids: Erdmans Publishing), 1983.

<sup>3</sup> *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. **Gihon, Spring of**. Site in Jerusalem where Solomon was anointed as king (1 Kgs 1:33, 38, 45). There are two sources of running water in Jerusalem: (1) the 'Ain Umm el Daraj' (also known as the Spring of the Mother of Steps, Gihon in the OT, and to Christians as the Virgin's Fountain), which lies at the eastern ridge, and (2) Bir 'Ayub, or the well of Job. The importance of the spring of Gihon for the defense of Jerusalem in time of siege is emphasized by Hezekiah's measures to deny his enemies access to the water supply and provide access for those who defended the city (2 Kgs 20:20; 2 Chr 32:30; cf. 2 Kgs 25:4; 2 Chr 32:3, 4; Is 7:3). Hezekiah's tunnel brought the waters from the spring of Gihon in the Kidron valley (eastern) into the central valley where the present-day Pool of Siloam is located. The spring was unable to supply all of Jerusalem's needs after the exile, and in the Roman period aqueducts were built to bring in additional water.