

The Messianic Psalms

The book of Psalms takes its title from the Hebrew word *Tehillim* which means “praises”. The English word is derived from the title given in the Septuagint and refers to the stringed instruments used for worship. Therefore the major theme of the Psalms is Praise of God in song.

There are a number of Messianic Psalms which refer directly to the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. These do not stand alone but are accepted and mentioned as such in the New Testament. The following Psalms are referred to in various places in the New Testament: -

Psalm 2

:7 ... “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” The apostle Paul in Hebrews 1:5 uses this precise verse in speaking of the person of Jesus Christ. This Psalm is about the King and fits the ministry of Christ perfectly.

Psalm 8

:2 ... “Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength”. Jesus Himself uses this text in Matthew 21:15-16 when the religious leaders asked that He stop the children singing praises to Him, He replied, “Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise?”

4-6 ... “What is man that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visiteth him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet” These verses are echoed by Paul in Hebrews 2:6-11 and Hebrews 2:8. They speak of Christ’s humanity and divinity. He represents the human race and will be given the authority over all creation.

Psalm 16

:10 ... “For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.” Peter and Paul apply this verse to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:25-31, 13:25, 15:12-17). Therefore this is a psalm that contains prophecy concerning the resurrection of Christ.

Psalm 22

:1 ... “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” These words were used by Jesus on the cross (Matthew 27:46). The psalm portrays His suffering as it appears that His Father’s protective presence was being withdrawn.

:7-8 ... “All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.” These words describe exactly the gestures of Christ’s enemies as they watched Him on the cross. In Matthew 27:39 we read, “They that passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads”. Also in Luke 23:35, “And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the Chosen of God”.

:15 ... “My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws.” This speaks of Christ’s thirst on the cross (John 19:28).

:16 ... “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and feet.” Isaiah 53:7 informs us that Jesus would be pierced for our sins. The Gospel writers tell us about the nails that pierced the hands and feet of the Lord, and that a spear pierced His side (John 20:27).

:18 ... “They parted my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” There is no doubt that this verse prophesies the time when the soldiers cast lots for the clothing of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24).

:22 ... The apostle Paul has Jesus saying, “I will declare Thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee”, (Hebrews 2:12). He sees this verse from the Psalms as being evidence that Jesus would bring eternal life to all that believe, therefore making them the children of God.

This entire Psalm must be seen as Messianic due to the content that describes many things regarding the death and resurrection of the Lord. Psalm twenty-two is quoted from and referred to on numerous occasions in the New Testament.

Psalm 34

:20 ... “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.” This verse predicts precisely what happened to Jesus. In John 19:31-37 John tells us that the soldiers went out to break the legs of those who hung on the crosses, but when they came to Jesus they found that He was already dead. “For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken” (:36).

Psalm 35

:11 ... False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.” Jesus was falsely accused by witnesses who were bribed by the religious leaders (Mark 14:57).

Psalm 40

:6-8 ... “Sacrifice and offering Thou didst not desire; mine ears hast Thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast Thou not required. Then said I, Lo, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.” Paul uses these words to describe the obedience of Christ to the Father (Hebrews 10:5-7).

Psalm 41

:9 ... “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” Jesus quoted this verse and applied it to His betrayal by Judas Iscariot, (Luke 22:48).

Psalm 45

:6-7 ... These two verses find fulfilment in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul applies these verses to Him in Hebrews 1:8-9 as he referred to the divinity and eternal kingdom of Christ.

Psalm 68

:18 ... “Thou has ascended on high, Thou has led captivity captive: Thou hast received gifts for men...” This statement is used in Ephesians 4:8 in reference to the Lord’s ascension into Heaven to rule as the head of the church and to bring many into His kingdom.

Psalm 69

:4 ... “They have hated me without a cause” is quoted in John 15:25.

:9 ... In John 2:17 we read, “And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up”, this was after Jesus had cleansed the temple the first time. The second part of this verse, “The reproaches of them that reproached Thee are fallen upon me” is quoted in Romans 15:3 by Paul as he spoke of Christ’s obedience.

:21 ... Matthew 27:48 informs us that Jesus was given gall and vinegar to drink as He hung on the cross. This is exactly what this verse predicts.

:25 ... “Let their habitation be desolate; and let another dwell in their tents.” Peter, when speaking of who should replace Judas used this verse.

This Psalm, along with Psalm 22, is one of the most frequently quoted psalms in the New Testament.

Psalm 89

:4 ... The New Testament see the fulfilment of this verse in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Acts 13:23 Peter states: “Of the man’s seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus”. And the angel Gabriel revealed to Mary: “and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David ... and of His kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33,69).

Psalm 102

:25-27 ... These verses are quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12 referring to Christ’s part in the creation of the universe and His eternal nature.

Psalm 109

:8 ... “Let his days be few; and let another take his office.” This is another verse that speaks of the replacement for Judas Iscariot and may have been referred to in Acts 1:20.

Psalm 110

This entire psalm speaks of the Lordship of the Messiah, His priesthood, His judgement on unbelievers, and His reign upon the earth. It quoted from seven times in the New Testament in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ.

:1 ... Jesus applied this verse to Himself when speaking of His deity (Matthew 22:44). Peter used it to emphasise the Lordship of Christ (Acts 2:33-35, 5:30-31). Paul did the same in Hebrews 10:13.

:4 ... Hebrews 5:6 and 6:19-7:28 makes use of this verse to prove that God made Christ a priest forever.

Psalm 118

:22-23 ... Jesus applied these verses to Himself because He was rejected by Israel, his own people. He became the chief cornerstone of God's new house - the church. This verse is mentioned in Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:7).

:26 ... "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the LORD." This was sung during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). The "Hosanna" part of the song comes from verse 21, "Save now" - (Hebrew: hosh`iana, Greek: hosanna).

There are other psalms that the New Testament refers to regarding the lord Jesus Christ, His Church, His kingdom, and His Lordship, but those mentioned above are considered to be directly Messianic.

[HOME](#) [BACK](#)