

## Psalm 110 – Bible Study Notes “Christ the Messiah is the Royal Priest”

Primary Focus: The Messiah, Christ, is both a priest and king (royal priest).

Background Info: Oracle of God written by David about the coming Messiah. The New Testament quotes this Psalm more than any other chapter in the Old Testament; it also attests to Davidic authorship and identifies Jesus as the fulfillment of this psalm. Hebrews elaborates more fully on this psalm’s meaning.

Basic structure:

- I. Messiah’s reign is divinely given (vv. 1-3)
- II. Messiah is both a priest and king (v. 4)
- III. Messiah will conquer and judge the world (vv. 5-7)

### Verses 1-3 – Messiah’s Reign is Divinely Given

Verse 1 – God the Father and God the Son both portrayed here.  
They hold a conversation, revealing two persons in the Godhead.  
LORD (Heb. *Yahweh*) = God the Father  
Lord (Heb. *Adonai*) = God the Son  
“Sit at my right hand” = position of authority and power  
“Make your enemies a footstool”  
Victorious kings placed their feet on the necks of their opponents.  
This led to the idea of the enemies as a footstool.  
A picture of complete victory over one’s enemy.

Verse 2 – Father stretches the scepter, the Son rules over the people.  
Both work together as one.  
Shows the sovereignty of God in that He is in full control.

Verse 3 – The people rally as an army to support the King/Messiah.  
Translations vary on how they render this verse.  
“Day of Your power” (NASB) = day of wrath at Second Coming.  
“Womb of the dawn” (NASB) = the supporters rally quickly and are known from the beginning  
“Your youth are...as the dew” (NASB) = freshness and newness  
The bride of Christ (believers) will be restored in the end.  
The supporters are renewed, purified by Christ when he returns.

#### Life Questions

How do these verses offer hope to believers today?  
How should believers respond to Jesus in their lives?  
Why do many often fail to respond in their lives and in church the way pictured in verse 3?

#### Verse 4 – Messiah is Both a Priest and King

God has appointed Messiah as priest and king forever.

Messiah comes in the line of Melchizedek.

Melchizedek was Priest of the Most High God.

He ruled over Salem, the ancient name for Jerusalem.

David ruled in Jerusalem.

Salem literally means “peace.”

Melchizedek was both a priest and a king.

Messiah does not come in line of Aaron, the line of the Mosaic priests.

Jesus comes from the line of Judah, not Levi.

The Aaronic priesthood was temporary and must end.

Jesus’ priesthood is permanent.

#### Life Questions

What does it mean that Christ is our King? What does it mean that Christ is our priest?

#### Verses 5-7 – Messiah Will Conquer and Judge the World

These verses are elaborated more in the book of Revelation.

Father and Son work in unison, though only the Son is visible.

Jesus will judge the world when he returns at the Second Coming.

He will pursue and conquer his enemies.

“Drink from the brook”

Refers to Gideon and his men renewing their strength to continue the pursuit.

Messiah will not end his pursuit until all are conquered.

Shows Messiah’s dedication and determination.

The people of verse 2 are not pictured here.

God does all the fighting.

The battle is God’s, not man’s.

#### Life Questions

What does judgment bring? Will you be one of the judged or know someone who will be? What should be done about it?