

I.N.I.

Wednesday Advent III

Dec. 14, 2011

Psalm 110:1-3

In the name of Jesus, the Christ --- our Prophet, Priest and King, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Jesus is the answer to our greatest needs. We see this in His office as the Christ, our Anointed One. Our Savior goes to the root of our problems. And the root problem is **SIN!** Sin has completely corrupted our minds, hearts and wills.

On account of our sin-caused ignorance we need a Teacher; Jesus comes as our **Prophet**, who Himself proclaimed God's saving Word to us and still does through His children--his ministers, teachers and fellow lay-members.

On account of our sins and their deserved punishment we need a Mediator to reconcile us to God; Jesus comes as our **Priest**, who made full satisfaction for us and still intercedes/mediates for us.

And on account of our spiritual blindness we do not know where to go, we need to be led, we are in need of a Leader; Jesus comes as our **King**, who rules over us with His powerful, loving Word, has conquered all of our enemies and continues to protect us.

Jesus' three-fold work as our promised Savior--our Prophet, Priest and King--as we have said in these Wednesday night services--was foretold centuries before His birth in Bethlehem. This was done--in ceremonial rites, by prophetic announcements and even in the lives of others as types, figures and examples.

Two weeks ago we heard that Moses foretold Christ as The Prophet. Who could be better suited to do this than Moses? There was no greater Old Testament spokesman for God.

There was no greater king in ancient Israel than David. Though not perfect, nor sinless--he was a man after God's own heart.

- 1) He was appointed and anointed by God.
- 2) He was a king who went to war for his people, to put down his people's enemies and to secure freedom, prosperity and safety for all of his subjects.
- 3) He was a king whose people gladly enlisted in his service in all sorts of civil jobs related to the nation's welfare, whose young men eagerly and willingly served as soldiers in his army.

Who better than this King David to describe the promised Christ as The King--- and that's just what he does in the Psalm which is our text this evening: Psalm 110:1-3

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

In his life, David pre-figured the Savior's Kingship and God promised that the Savior would come from David's line as we heard from our Scripture reading this evening in II Samuel 7.

In Ps 110 David has this promise in mind as he looks forward to its fulfillment and describes the Messiah as King. As he meditates on the Gospel and longs for the day of the Prince of Peace he is permitted to hear the LORD Almighty addressing a word to the One for whose coming he is so eagerly awaiting.

I. JESUS THE CHRIST . . . OUR KING---Clearly Revealed

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

God sent Samuel to anoint David as king. God protected and blessed young David until he was made king of all Israel. Here in our text David says -- by inspiration of God -- that the promised Messiah-King, who will be born of his family, is equal to God the Father. He will rule -- not from an earthly capital city -- but from heaven's throne.

The right hand of the throne is a position equal in power to the throne. The Messiah/Christ will rule as God, because He is God--God the Son. God does not give any man a place as His equal.

"I am the Lord...my glory will I not give to another."

"I am the Lord... and beside me there is no Savior."

The Messiah/Christ to come will be God Himself---even while He is David's Son, in human flesh. Somehow through the Word, the Wise Men also knew this and worshiped Jesus as divine King when they found the little baby in Bethlehem.

But this is what the Pharisees couldn't see when Jesus asked them His question about this verse in Matthew 22:41ff: **While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'"? "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word.**

They did not see in Jesus the Deity, that He is both God and Man in one person; David's Lord as to His Godhead and also David's Son as to His manhood.

II. JESUS THE CHRIST . . . OUR KING---Continually Victorious

Kings of old were not mere figureheads, but warriors. They personally led their troops into battle. They fought for their people. David was anointed king while still a shepherd-boy. The Lord God blessed and protected him until he was on the throne of Israel. David was made king through armed conflict and then as king he went to war on behalf of his people.

Just as David came to be recognized as Israel's King thru hard fought, victorious battles so also it would be for his descendant -- Christ, the Savior King. Our enemies -- sin, Satan, and death -- became His enemies. But while our sinfulness had long assured our defeat; in Christ's warfare on our behalf a victorious result for us was assured by the LORD in advance.

"Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

The footstool here is a figurative picture of what was actually done for symbolic purposes. The conquering king would lead the defeated king around in chains and then in front of all of the people have him kneel down before him and he would place his foot on his back, to show his complete victory and the other king's utter, humiliating defeat. The defeated king was the footstool of the conquering king.

So also the victory of the Christ would be total and complete. Satan's hold over mankind was broken. Sin's power smashed. Sin's eternal consequences nullified forever. That is the message of the Gospel: "Jesus wins" for all of mankind forever and ever! And it was clearly shown in Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven,

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

The rod is the scepter, a symbol of a king's rule. Beginning in Jerusalem, the Messiah's rule will extend into all the earth. There will always be those who reject Him and oppose His rule, but that will not stop the spread of His kingdom of grace. After all, He has already defeated the arch enemy of God and man. He did that at Calvary and the empty tomb when by His death and resurrection He defeated death and the Devil.

When David went up against Goliath, he went out in the name of the Lord for Israel. He fought on behalf of his nation-- against a foe none of them could face and survive.

Christ was our Champion when He took on the Prince of Darkness in that final pitched battle on the cross. And like David of old, He emerged victorious, though **He** had to go through death and hell itself on our behalf.

The Cross is Christ's scepter, for there He established His right to rule and the power by which He establishes His throne in human hearts. Since the first Pentecost the message of Christ-crucified and risen again has carried His scepter, His rule, into all the world just as it was foretold in the 110th Psalm.

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand"

And finally, our King will rule forever in the new heavens and the new earth where all will be under His feet and righteousness will dwell unopposed. Clearly then, when our text describes the rule of the Christ with the words **The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool,"** it is not describing Christ's rule in glory in heaven but the victorious reign of His grace in the hearts of His people through the victory of the cross and empty tomb.

III: JESUS THE CHRIST . . . OUR KING---Gladly Served

As the influence of the Christ spreads, as He is recognized as the King Triumphant over sin, death and hell, as He takes His rightful place on the throne of human hearts, many will stream to His side, to be part of His glorious army. This is described in the last picture of our text:

Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

The soldiers in the army of Christ are not drafted against their will. They are many (**like morning dew**) --- and all come as volunteers, willingly. The power of the Gospel of forgiveness leads us to serve the Lord with gladness. In holy array: we are dressed in the white robes of holiness.

We, the forgiven; we the victorious; are daily renewed in strength and vigor ("**youth**") by Word and Sacrament, by the forgiving love of our King. All believers are here included.

So it is that we go once more to the manger in Bethlehem and kneel before the Christ our King. We may come weak and confused, saddened, despairing and discouraged -- like straggling, wayward frail sheep, but we arise as victorious soldiers of heaven's high King. So the Gospel of Christmas strengthens our faith, renews our commitment, and enables us anew to take up the banner of the cross.

We have a mission, and poor, imprisoned souls await the deliverance that comes only by our King. Remember that we are opposed, not by flesh and blood but by the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places, even the old evil Foe. But this army of the Christ, in which you and I serve, is not marching out to kill and destroy but to rescue, to save and to set free. We are equipped, not with earthly weapons of war: spears and shields, but with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Satan beware! Unbelievers take heed! Christ's army of believers is marching to take over hearts and minds with the powerful Gospel of Jesus' forgiving love.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the Foe; Forward into battle See His banners go!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell: Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.