

## Introduction

- Mapping out this series...
  - most often quoted Psalm in the NT!
  - by Jesus himself: Mark 12:35-37 *While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" The large crowd listened to him with delight.*
  - and by several other NT writers - eg Hebrews 5:6 *And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*
- But its also one that is puzzling, strange, elusive!
  - *from the womb of the dawn!! dew of your youth! Melchizedek...*
  - as Crawford commented to me, *"one I have never quite grasped and found hard to understand"!!*
  - now there's a challenge, if ever there was one!!
- What **do** we know about this Psalm?
  - it's of David - in title, and also confirmed by Jesus himself
  - so.... who is David?
    - king of Israel
    - capital city in Jerusalem, which is also called Zion (v.2)
    - and prototype for the true king, the ruler
    - he is the leader of God's people
- David reflecting on his own role and place:
  - *sitting there with his lyre, strumming away and reflecting, thinking, turning over in his mind...*
  - *what does it mean to properly, fully, truly rule God's people?*
  - more than just a human ruler...

## King

- (1) *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."*
- (2) *The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.*
- (3) *Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.*
- The first 3 verses are all about the Lord's **ruler** over his people
- The next 4 will be about the Lord's **priest** for his people
- Who are the 3 people of the first sentence?
  - LORD is God, Yahweh, clearly
  - "my" is clearly David
  - who then is "my Lord"?
    - one who is of higher kingship than even great David, who already is when David writes, who has the authority to reign, yet who is still in the midst of his enemies... whose work is yet to be completed
- Then v.2 has the promise that this great ruler will reign, from Zion/Jerusalem
- And then puzzle of the imagery of v.3!
  - arrayed in holy majesty - likely clothed in his own holiness
  - troops is the probably colour of a general word for people; here God's people are willing to serve, willing to follow their king - the proper response to such a king!
  - *(hints from Isaiah 26:18-19, that these are the risen dead...)*
  - womb of the dawn is tricky - possibly draws on ancient mythology to point to supernatural origins for this king, or perhaps simply a picturesque allusion to where dew comes from - the dawn!
  - OT readers would have felt that dew is **life giving**, and comes **secretly**, so here

is God's power preserving this great ruler in the power of an indestructible life!

## Priest

- (4) *The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*
- (5) *The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.*
- (6) *He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.*
- (7) *He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.*
- In Genesis 14:18 there was a priest/king figure, the strange Melchizedek, who met with Abraham and was honoured by him:
  - his capital city/base is reckoned to have been what is now Jerusalem!
  - drawing on that heritage, David reflects on the promised king, the Messiah, being more than just king... being priest and king together
- Note in v.5 the reversal of position of the Lord from v.1:
  - now at the Messiah's right hand, rather than Messiah being at Lord's right hand!
  - the Lord is now in position to energise his priest's endeavours, to protect and to give him his patronage.....
- What about the bloodthirsty nature of v.6!!?
  - is this a picture of Jesus, the Prince of Peace?
  - partly the Psalm is operating within the kingly metaphor - and kingdom's are extended by conquest; David knew the bloody nature of battle
  - but also this Psalm spans the two comings of the Lord, who will come again to judge, when evil is overthrown, when the dark powers and all who would choose to reject Jesus will be defeated... cf. [Revelation 19:11-21!](#)
- What does v.7 have to do with the rest of the Psalm?
  - in 1 Samuel 30:10 David and his troops are pursuing an enemy; two hundred stay at the Besor ravine, too exhausted to cross "*But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit....*"
  - so, by analogy, the ultimate king will never relax or relent until every foe submits to him

## Conclusion

- That's our Lord!
  - Jesus who came, Jesus who is coming, king and priest forever!
  - as the hymn puts it: ever to be worshipped, trusted, and adored!
- This is who Jesus was as he came to Palestine, 2000 years ago, though the reality was cloaked
  - this is who Jesus is now, sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven
  - and this is who Jesus will be revealed to be when the heavens are torn and the King of Kings, Lord of Lords bursts forth to finally declare and consummate his rule!
- **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**