



NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF AMERICA, INC.

# THE PORTRAIT OF CHRIST IN THE PSALMS

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” **Luke 24:44**

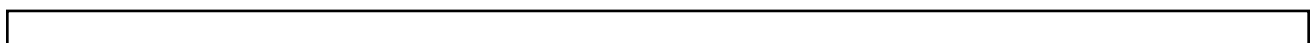
## CHRIST IN THE PSALMS

These Psalms are called Messianic Psalms because they are quoted in the New Testament in direct reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Psalms, also called *The Psalter*, Christ is spoken of in it more than any other book in the Old Testament. These are a collection of one hundred-fifty prayers and praises to the Lord and placed in the canon of scripture to be read and sung to music by God’s people. They characterize Christ fully as the Divine Messiah. Jesus Christ is the central figure, and we have a complete picture of His ministry. It records His: coming, incarnation, death, sufferings, resurrection, ascension, offices, (Prophet, Priest, King) life, character, glory and kingdom. They are rich in the theme being the King and His kingdom.

*“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* **John 5:39**

## THE MESSIANIC PSALMS

The following is an outline of the Messianic Psalms. Ten Psalms contain truths about the Messiah. One could compile a biography of Jesus Christ with the amount of information given in the Psalms alone. The author of the book of Hebrews uses the Psalms to confirm the Messiah. To prove the superiority of Christ over all things, Paul uses the Psalms as his



source of authority and they are quoted six times in the first chapter. About one half of the quotes in the entire book of Hebrews are from Psalms. In the New Testament, they are quoted more frequently than any other Old Testament book. This collection is quoted by Jesus himself more than any other. There are over one hundred references in the New Testament pertaining to Christ from the Psalms.

Now consider the individual Psalms in reference to Messiah. There are basically two groups of Messianic Psalms. First, those which apply only to Christ and no one else, directly related, and exclusively Messianic. Secondly, those which apply to David but ultimately looks forward to Christ; David only being a type of Christ.

## **PSALM 2 (Christ's Sonship)**

This Psalm is quoted several times in the New Testament, in direct reference to Jesus Christ, the one who fulfills the passage (Acts 4:23-26, 13:33, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5, Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15). Christ alone can lay claim to this particular Psalm. It has reference to the depraved state of humanity and its involvement in the crucifixion. Jesus is clearly the "Anointed One" (verse 6) and "Begotten of the Father" (verse 7) and must be accepted as the Savior, or one will suffer the wrath of God (verse 12).

## **PSALM 8 (Christ's Dominion)**

This Psalm basically refers to the dominion over the earth given to man by God (Genesis 1:26) even though at present, it is marred by sin. This Psalm is referred to in Hebrews 2:6-8 in relation to Jesus Christ. It is through Christ that all things will be restored.

## **PSALM 16 (Christ's Resurrection)**

This Psalm in verses 9-11 is quoted by Peter in Acts 2:25-28 and by Paul in Acts 13:35-36 and can only apply to Jesus Christ. David, the author of the Psalm, died and saw corruption as far as his flesh is concerned. This

Psalm guarantees not only David's resurrection, but the resurrection of every Christian.

## **PSALM 22 (Christ's Sufferings)**

This Psalm is a prophetic description of the crucifixion of God's Son. It gives graphic details of the suffering that Jesus Christ went through on the cross. The first verse gives us words spoken by our Savior from Calvary's Cross. Other verses in this chapter describe His mocking (verses 7-8), the piercing of His hands and feet (verse 16) and His garments being parted (verse 18). This Psalm was written over one thousand years before the time it was fulfilled.

## **PSALM 40 (Christ's Obedience)**

This Psalm is Messianic because of its application in Hebrews 10:5-10. It is prophetic of Christ's voluntary sacrifice. The opening of the ear in verse 6 is symbolic of the dedication of an indentured servant to his master (Exodus 21:6), and is translated in Hebrews 10:5 as, "...*A body hast thou prepared me:*" Jesus Christ willingly became a bond servant (Philemon 2-8). The Lord took pleasure (delight) in His mission and in the will of His Father. "*I do always those things which please Him.*" **John 8:29**

## **PSALM 41 (Christ's Denial)**

The prophecy of Psalm 41:9 was fulfilled by Judas Iscariot at the Last Supper, "*Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*" The New Testament reference is in **John 13:18**, "*I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.*" These scriptures clearly confirm that this Psalm is Messianic.

## **PSALM 45 (Christ's Divinity)**

This Messianic Psalm is a picture of the King of Earth, verses 6-7, *"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."* The King is addressed here as God and is quoted in Hebrews 1:8 confirming that Messiah is God Himself, *"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."* In Hebrews 1:8-9, we see that one person of the Godhead (Father) speaking to another person of the Godhead (Son). The Trinity is illustrated in the Old Testament.

## **PSALM 68 (Christ's Ascension)**

This Psalm reveals the Messiah as having ascended back into heaven after His resurrection in verses 17-19. The verses are quoted in the New Testament in Ephesians 4:8-9 in reference to Jesus Christ:

*"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"*

### ***Ephesians 4:8-9***

The Lord proclaimed liberty to the captives and carried them with Him from paradise. The "captives" refers to all those who had died with faith that a redeemer would come to deliver them. The Messiah rescued those who had been captured by the enemy, those who were in Paradise (Abraham's Bosom) until Christ arose. Luke 16, John 7.

## **PSALM 110 (Christ's Exaltation)**

This Psalm is used by New Testament writers to preach Christ more than any other single passage in the Bible (Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:34, 35, Hebrews 1:13, 5:6, 7:17-21). The entire Psalm is Messianic, revealing His royal priesthood in His exalted position at the right hand of the Father. Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 in Acts 2:34 to prove

that Jesus had taken His rightful place at the right hand of the Father in Heaven and now is both Lord and Christ, *“For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,”* **Matthew 22:44**. Jesus Himself uses the Psalm in His dealing with the Pharisees and Scribes to prove His deity, saying that He was both David’s Son and David’s Lord.

## **PSALM 118 (Christ, the Chief Cornerstone)**

This Psalm in verses 22-26 speaks of Messiah as the Chief Cornerstone that was rejected by many but honored by the Lord and His people. The Apostle Peter in Matthew 21:42, connects the meaning of this Psalm to Jesus Christ, *“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”*

Other New Testament references to this Psalm are Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, and 1 Peter 2:7. In Matthew 26:30, this Psalm was perhaps Jesus’ farewell hymn with His disciples as they finished the Passover. (Our Savior was on His way to Gethsemane and Calvary.)