

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

Luke 24:44-47

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- “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

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- “The Order of the Divine Mind, embodied in the Divine Law and Psalmody, is beautiful. What should a man do but try to reproduce it, so far as possible, in his daily life?” (C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms)

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- “There are many themes found in the Book of Psalms that are generally not found in modern music. These include the fear of God, the righteousness and justice of God, the sovereignty of God, the judgment of God, the evil of sin, spiritual and physical warfare, the arch enemies of the Christian, the destruction of the wicked, the reality of hell, the blessedness of the church, the vicious attacks upon the church, the commandments of God, the dominion of David’s son the Christ, and so on. Without the backdrop of these truths, the themes of love, mercy, faith, and salvation become largely meaningless. The loss of Psalmody in the churches is one of the early indicators of the loss of faith.”
(Kevin Swanson)

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- God intends that the Psalms be used:
 - As a book of evidences, confirming our faith in Jesus as the Christ
 - As an additional source of insight into our Lord's suffering and glorious triumph
 - As a guide to His godly life, faithful teaching, and patient suffering, designed by God to be a model for our own lives, teaching, and suffering

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- 1Peter 2:21-25 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- Peter quoted four times from Isaiah 53 in this passage.
- What must be understood is that Isaiah quoted four times from the Psalms when he wrote Isaiah 53

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- What can Christians learn about the Christ from the Psalms?
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - When Paul wrote this, the only scriptures universally distributed were the Old Testament books and the apostles’ oral teaching.

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- Jesus said that the Law, prophets, and Psalms teach:
“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for
 - the Christ to suffer and
 - to rise from the dead the third day, and
 - that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name
 - to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
- ALL of these critical Gospel doctrines were prophesied and addressed in the Psalms.

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- The Savior is all over the Book of Psalms
 - Psalm 110:1-6ff - “The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 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. 4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek. 5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations...”

Psalms Instruct Christians about Christ

- Salvation from our sins in Christ is all over the Psalms
 - Psalm 103:8-14 - “The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

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Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Many of the Psalmic prophecies address His Passion
- Rejection by both Jews and Gentiles
 - Leaders - Psalm 2:1-3 - “Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”
 - Acts 4:23-28

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Family
 - Psalm 69:8 - “I have become a stranger to my brothers,
And an alien to my mother's children”
 - John 7:5
- Friends
 - Psalm 41:9 - “Even my own familiar friend in whom I
trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel
against me.”
 - Matt. 26:20-25

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Silence and suffering
- Did not answer false charges
 - Psalm 38:11-14 - “My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off. 12 Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long. 13 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. 14 Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth is no response.”
 - Matt. 26:56, 58-63, 27:11-14

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Did not respond to mockery
 - Psalm 35:15-16 - “But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; 16 With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.”
 - Matt. 27:26-31

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Crucifixion and death
- Forsaken in suffering
 - Psalm 22:1, 14-16 - “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?... 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet”
 - Matt. 27:46

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Abuse on the cross
 - Psalm 22:6-8, 12-13 - “But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him! ... 12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion.”
 - Matt. 27:39-44

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- His clothing became spoils
 - Psalm 22:17-18 - “I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”
 - Matt. 27:35-36
- Given gall and vinegar
 - Psalm 69:21 - “They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”
 - Matt. 27:34

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Not a bone was broken
 - Psalm 34:20 - “He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.”
 - John 19:31-37
- Prayer for His enemies
 - Psalm 109:4 - “In return for my love they are my accusers, But I give myself to prayer.”
 - Luke 23:34

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Final cry
 - Psalm 31:5 - “Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”
 - Luke 23:46

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Voluntary death in the prime of life
 - Psalm 89:45 - “The days of his youth You have shortened; You have covered him with shame.”
 - Psalm 40:6-8 - “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.”
 - Matt. 26:36-46

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- The Psalmic prophecies also address His Power
- Resurrection
 - Psalm 16:8-10 - “I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
 - Acts 2:24-31

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Ascension
 - Psalm 68:18 - “You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.”
 - Eph. 4:8-10

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Coronation

- Psalm 110:1-2 - “The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”
- Acts 2:33; 1Cor. 15:25-26; Eph. 1:20-23; 1Peter 3:22; Rev. 2:26-27, 3:21

Psalmic Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus

- Priesthood
 - Psalm 110:4 - “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”
 - Heb. 6:19-20, 7:20-28
- Judgeship
 - Psalm 110:6 - “He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.”
 - Rev. 1:5; 2:26-28, 19:11-16

Benefiting From The Psalmic Prophecies Of Christ

- The purpose of prophecy
- God used it to confirm His existence
 - Isa. 46:9-11 - “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.”

Benefiting From The Psalmic Prophecies Of Christ

- God used it to confirm His spokesmen
 - Deut. 18:20-22 - “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ 21 And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ - 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”
 - 2Peter 1:21 - “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Benefiting From The Psalmic Prophecies Of Christ

- The purpose of Messianic prophecy
 - It helps to identify the Messiah. The Old Testament has approximately 330 prophecies that identify the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled all of them
 - The mathematical probability of it being a coincidence is astonishing
 - The probability of any man who has ever lived fulfilling just eight of the prophecies has been calculated as 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000
 - The probability of fulfilling just 48 is one in ten to the 157th power. It would take 7 followed by 21 zeros years just to count that high.
 - Jesus did not fulfill 8 or 48, but 330 prophecies. The numbers necessary to calculate those odds are incomprehensible

Benefiting From The Psalmic Prophecies Of Christ

- Apostle Paul used the prophecies of the Scriptures to demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ
 - Acts 17:2-3 - “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”
- Peter did as well
 - Acts 3:18 - “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

Benefiting From The Psalmic Prophecies Of Christ

- The Messianic prophecies can:
 - Convince believers in God that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior
 - Convince unbelievers that God is, that God has spoken, and that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ
 - Increase our own faith in, understanding of, and relationship with the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ