

What chapter in the Old Testament is quoted most often in the New Testament? Psalm 110 is quoted in the New Testament more than any other chapter in the Old Testament. The New Testament makes it clear that this Psalm is about Jesus Christ. For example, Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and quoted the first verse of this Psalm, saying that it referred to God raising and exalting Jesus, making the crucified one both Lord and Christ.

The majority of Psalm 110 is about Jesus Christ, the invincible King. This is the image used of him in the first three and the last three verses in this chapter of only seven verses. In the first verse, we read “The LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.” To clarify what is said here we could put it like this, “the LORD Jehovah said to my Lord Jesus, sit at my right hand until I bring all your enemies under your power and control.” Then we are told that the LORD Jehovah sends forth your (the Lord Jesus’) mighty scepter. A scepter was a symbol of the authority and sovereignty of a King. God the Father is working to extend the reign of King Jesus and ultimately, he will “rule in the midst of his enemies”. When this is complete, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The subjugation of all the enemies to King Jesus will be fully accomplished at the end of history, as we know it, when Christ leads his forces on the day of his power. These forces who will fight with and for Christ to overcome his enemies will be characterized by their willingness “Your people will offer themselves freely”, their holiness “in holy garments”, and their youthfulness “from the womb of the morning the dew of your youth will be yours”.

This theme of Jesus as invincible King continues in the last three verses of our Psalm. Here we read “he (Jesus) will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses, he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.” This graphic and gruesome imagery in the last verses of this Psalm sounds similar to things we read about in the last book of the Bible. Revelation 19:11-21 and 6:15-17, speak of one who is called the “Word of God” and slays large numbers of enemies and speaks of “the wrath of the Lamb” from which people want to hid themselves.

Many struggle with the wrath of God and Jesus, seeing it as incompatible with love. But we should remember that God’s wrath is the just and righteous response of love to evil. Also, believing in a God of wrath enables us to see the depths of his love for us in bearing for us the wrath our sin deserve in Jesus.

The middle of Psalm 110 is about Jesus as the Indestructible Priest, “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek’”. Hebrews 7 is an inspired New Testament commentary on this mysterious man, Melchizedek. He appears out of nowhere and blesses Abraham and receives a tithe from Abraham, revealing that he was greater than Abraham. He is called the Priest of the most High God, the King of Salem or Peace and his name means King of Righteousness. He is unique because he is both Priest and King. He also is a Priest who is not a descendent of Aaron, coming long before the law. In all these ways he points to Jesus as the ultimately unique King and Priest.

In contrast to the other OT priests, the sacrifice of Jesus was offered once for all. Also, his life is indestructible, so he lives forever to intercede for his people and will save them to the uttermost. But, He was not only King and Priest, he was also Priest and Sacrifice. He offered himself, his blood, for the sins of man and those who come to God through him are forgiven forever.

In the end, this Psalm shows us that every human will ultimately relate to Jesus Christ as either the Priest who is their advocate or the King who is their adversary. Come to God through Jesus!