

"CHRIST'S REIGN AND TRIUMPH"

Introduction

1. This Psalm is all about Christ. Written by David.
2. Some O.T. passages refer to Christ
 - (i) as types: the tabernacle and priesthood
 - (ii) events that cast their shadow before them: Genesis 22; the Exodus.
 - (iii) But here it is all and only Christ: so says Matthew Poole: "directly, immediately, solely". Yes!

OBSERVE

1. Here is no reference to David at all.
2. But, like Isaiah 53, is a full-length portrait of Christ and of Him alone.

1. HERE IS SET BEFORE US THE VISION OF CHRIST AS THE LORD AND SAVIOUR OF MANKIND AND GOD'S RIGHT HAND – THE PLACE OF SUPREME HONOUR AND REWARD

- 1) The relationships of Christ:
 - (i) to David and all His people: "my Lord".
OBSERVE: So Thomas, Paul, etc. See Matthew 22:41-46.
APPLICATION: Let us all view Christ in this way: "As to His godhead, no mother; as to manhood, no father."
 - (ii) to God the Father: the Lord said:
 - a. the Ontological Trinity: opera ad intra
 - b. the Economic Trinity: opera ad extra**OBSERVE**: This reflects the Covenant in past eternity: "I have finished the work which...gavest me."
- 2) The Offices of Christ: 3fold:
 - (i) As King: v.2 "rule" – a two-fold Kingship:
 - a. over His church: spiritual
 - b. over the universe: temporal**OBSERVE**: The first is forever; the second will come to an end: 1 Corinthians 15: 25-28.

By His temporal Kingship Christ reigns over all creatures for the good of his Church; by his spiritual Kingship He reigns over all His people to bring us to glory.

- 2) As Prophet: v.2-3: "rod-enemies – day of power":
The "rod" = the gospel, by which He subdues His elect to Himself. The word in the power of the spirit (M. Henry). This shown by the context: "a willing people in the day of thy power".
OBSERVE: Gospel preaching may be despised by some – but it is "the power of God":
 - a. The great truths of the gospel
 - b. The elect enemies who hear it
 - c. The mighty change in their life:**ILLUSTRATION**: Augustine; Luther; J. Wesley; Chalmers.
 - 3) As Priest: v.4: This text expounded at length Hebrews 7. Not after Levi but Melchizedek, i.e.
 - a. Levitical priesthood only till Calvary
 - b. Christ's now superseded it – forever**OBSERVE**: The work of a priest is
 - (i) to offer sacrifice for the people
 - (ii) to intercede for them
 - (iii) bless them
 So we hear Christ's prayer for all the elect: "I will that...be with you...behold my glory"
APPLICATION: Let us look up to this glorious Son of God and lay aside all fear when we remember His threefold offices! How safe believers are!
- ## 2. THE VISION SHOWS US THE PERSONS AMONG WHOM CHRIST HAS TO SIT ON THE THRONE
- 1) All mankind are naturally His enemies:
 - (i) sin is hatred of God and of Christ
 - (ii) but 2 classes are here, those who, as a result of Christ's grace, are made His followers; those who are not humbled.

2) The enemies who reject the claims of Christ and so die in their sins: made his footstool (v.1).

ILLUSTRATION: Tamerlane and Bajazet, the Turkish emperor.

APPLICATION: Thos who scorn the gospel will pay this high price. Remember: "Whosoever shall not receive you..."

3) The enemies whom Christ makes into disciples: v.3:

(i) Grace finds us unwilling and makes us willing

(ii) The change is effected by Christ's secret power

(iii) This is the harder verse in the Book of Psalms – perhaps reflecting the profound mystery of man's conversion:

(i) The sight which transforms them: "the beauty of holiness" = Christ on the Cross suffering hell-pains for me – When I see that by faith I am conquered:

ILLUSTRATION; Zinzendorf; Wm. Haslam.

(ii) The process that transforms them: "the womb of the morning", i.e. a new day begins in our life as we pass through a second birth: John 3.

OBSERVE: I am afraid of too heavy a stress on "the covenant status of our children". I feel they are, till they give evidence of conversion "in the church but of the world".

(iii) The wonderful product: "dew of thy youth", i.e. converts / spiritual children mysteriously begotten like the early dew.

3. **THE TWO STATES OF CHRIST: HIS HUMILIATION AND HIS EXALTATION**

1) None are elevated so high: but none in this life ever went down so low. We have this here set before us:

(i) The Humiliation v.7a: "the brook" – our sufferings are just a cup-full but His are a river, an ocean – as we see from the Gospels: "My God, my God":

- "damnation drunk lovingly" (Duncan)
- "Behold and see..."

– all that men, devils, death and my sins could do to trouble Him.

APPLICATION: O let us not forget what we owe to Christ – may we be a "willing people".

(ii) Exaltation: v.7b: "therefore"

– there is cause and effect here

– "Father, glorify me...I have finished the work".

– "Obedient unto death, therefore..."

2) The absolute certainty of success for Christ and His church: v.5-6

(i) seen in O.T. Kingdoms

(ii) and N.T. enemies of every age

3) It is a just judgement, not a military slaughter: v.6.

CONCLUSION

How wise then, to love and serve this exalted Saviour!

PSALM

72: 1 – 8

110: 1 – 4

110: 5 – 7