

*The Psalms: Structure, Content & Message*  
Sunday Morning Bible Study  
Chapter 8 – Royal Psalms

INTRODUCTION

- Introduction: Pages 105-106
- Royal Psalms 2; 18; 20; 21; 45; 72; (89); 101; 110; 132; 144:1-11
- Royal psalms are those in which the king plays a role
  - “Kingship arose in Israel only comparatively late; hence kings never played such a dominant role in Israel’s worship as they did in neighboring empires” (105).
  - “Even those royal psalms which have been preserved in the book of Psalms were at one time most certainly related to the living kings of Israel and Judah” (105).
- “Most of these royal psalms, however, were incorporated in the Psalter as the book developed in postexilic times, because these psalms were interpreted with a view to the long-awaited king of the future. Their original meaning, i.e. their relation to the currently reigning king, is therefore often difficult to recover. In the meaning which was subsequently given to them they bear witness to messianic expectations in the worship of the postexilic congregation” (105-106).
- IMPORTANT: Seeing the royal psalms as messianic is acceptable, but we must not forget that they were first written about the actual kings of Israel and Judah. Only later were they understood to have a messianic interpretation.

Psalms 2 and 110

- READ Psalms 2 and 110
- These psalms were connected with the celebration of the king’s enthronement
- “These two psalms became important for the Christian church in its messianic interpretation of them because what was here spoken of an earthly king was transferred to the Messiah as God’s Son, sitting at the right hand of God” (106).

Psalm 132

- Reflects a special liturgical celebration of the Lord’s choice of both Mt. Zion and the dynasty of David

Psalm 45

- A wedding song for a king, sung by a singer at the royal wedding
- Originally was a secular song
- “It got into the Psalter only because it was subsequently interpreted as referring to the Messiah, the end-time king, and thus became an expression of the expectation of this future king who was to come” (107).

### Psalms 72 and 20

- Intercession for the king occupied an important place in Israel's worship

### DISCUSSION

- What can American Christians today learn from the royal psalms, considering the fact that we do not know what it is like to have a king?
- How was Jesus the fulfillment of the royal psalms messianic interpretation?