

JESUS IN THE PSALMS

EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

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for Northwest Valley Baptist Church
Spring 2020

OBEDIENT SON

JESUS IN THE PSALMS

Jesus is perfectly obedient, in our place, to the will of Jehovah.

SCRIPTURE		MUSIC
SERVICE	[Collected Scriptures below.]	Arise, My Soul, Arise Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery Complete in Thee His Robes for Mine Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness See the Christ
DAILY	[None developed in 2020 under COVID-19 remote worship circumstances.]	

OBEDIENT SON – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES

From Psalms, the Gospels, and Philippians

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, ‘Thou art **my Son**; this day have I begotten thee.’¹ Then said I, ‘Lo, I come; in the volume of the book it is written of me, “I delight to **do Thy will**, O my God; yea, Thy law is within my heart.’² Of mine own self, I can do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek **not mine own will** but the **will of the Father** [Who] hath sent me.’³

And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, [Jesus] steadfastly **set His face** to go to Jerusalem.⁴ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man **must suffer** many things and be rejected of the elders and of the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.⁵

[He] kneeled down, and prayed, saying, “Father, **if Thou be willing**, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, **not my will, but Thine, be done.**”⁶ And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself and became **obedient unto death**— even the death of the cross.⁷

¹ Psalm 2:7

² Psalm 40:7-8

³ John 5:30

⁴ Luke 9:51

⁵ Mark 8:31

⁶ Luke 22:41b-42

⁷ Philippians 2:8

OBEDIENT SON – INTRODUCTORY READING

If you read all 150 *Psalms*, you will never find the name, “Jesus.” But we see “shadows” of Him as we read. How do we know Jesus is there in the *Psalms*? The New Testament Gospels and Letters often make the connection; they quote the *Psalms* in reference to Jesus. Hebrews 10 alerts us to the first theme of Jesus’ portrait in the songs of Israel: His perfect obedience to His Father.

Now, that might seem a bit contradictory. Why would God need to obey God? But Jesus says explicitly, “I have come to do the will of the Father Who sent Me.”⁸ He submits to God the Father—though He himself is God in the flesh. What does that obedience look like in Jesus’ life?

As we read the accounts of His ministry, we see Jesus live the sinless life we could never live. His every choice is pure. His every act is clean. He obeys the Law perfectly. His heart is completely devoted to God. Psalm 24 sets the standard: “Who shall stand in [the LORD’s] holy place? He [Who has] clean hands and a pure heart.”⁹ Only Jesus can claim to have *earned* this access by His own life; and only standing in Jesus’ righteousness can we approach our holy God.

But Jesus’ greatest act of obedience is His “obedience unto death”¹⁰ on our behalf. This act of submission to God’s will is the culmination of His righteousness—and the means by which His perfect record could transfer to us. In the Gospels we see Jesus “set His face toward Jerusalem” and rebuke those who try to deter Him from that path. In Gethsemane, He says, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” That cup of wrath, that will of God was for Jesus to die for the sins of the world. And He did, willingly.

As we prepare to consider in the coming weeks Christ’s death and resurrection, today we delight in Him, the Obedient Son of God. He lived the sinless life we could never live and willingly died the death we deserved—all in perfect obedience to the Father. Worship Him today, the perfectly Obedient Son, Jesus Christ.

⁸ John 5:30

⁹ Psalm 24:3–4

¹⁰ Philippians 2:8



Jesus is the King to Whom the Messianic Psalms point and hope.

SCRIPTURE		MUSIC
SERVICE	[Collected Scriptures below.]	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Blessed Be the Name Bow the Knee Fairest Lord Jesus Rejoice, the Lord Is King Thou Who Wast Rich My Song Is Love Unknown (Childs) SATB King of Humility (Koerts) SATB
DAILY	[None developed in 2020 under COVID-19 remote worship circumstances.]	

ROYAL MESSIAH – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES

from Psalms and the Gospel of Matthew

The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; He will not turn from it: “Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.”¹¹ [I have] set My King upon my holy hill of Zion.¹² Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the scepter of Thy kingdom is a right scepter.¹³ Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye [lifted] up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.¹⁴

The disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them and brought the [donkey] and the colt and put on them their clothes, and they set Him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees and [strewed] them in the way. And the multitudes that went before and that followed cried, saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”¹⁵

And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying in the Temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were sore displeased and said unto Him, “Hearest thou what these say?” And Jesus saith unto them, “Yea; have ye never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?’”¹⁶

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Tell ye the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon [a donkey] and a colt, the foal of [a donkey].’”¹⁷

¹¹ Psalm 132:11

¹² Psalm 2:6

¹³ Psalm 45:6

¹⁴ Psalm 24:7

¹⁵ Matthew 21:6–9

¹⁶ Matthew 21:15–16

¹⁷ Matthew 21:4–5

ROYAL MESSIAH – INTRODUCTORY READING

The most common theme of Messiah's portrait in the Psalms is His royalty; Messiah will be an everlasting King in the line of David. Today, we remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as a humble king, to waving palms and loud cries of, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" These people are praising Jesus with the words of Psalm 118. And Christ says in Matthew 21 that the children's *hosanna's* fulfill the words of Psalm 8:2: "out of the mouth of babes and sucklings" He receives His rightful worship.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, we also recall the cry of Psalm 24, "Lift up your heads, O gates...and let the King come in." The psalmist speaks these lines about Jehovah, the great *God* of the universe; but in Jesus, this King of Glory Himself enters the gates of Jerusalem as a humble *man*, riding a donkey.

But wasn't there already a king in Jerusalem? Technically, yes. Herod was the political ruler of the day; his palace and power were definitely fit for royalty. Then what do we make of this humble man, with little money and no home, now welcomed in the streets as a king?

In His first appearance, Jesus wasn't what most were expecting Messiah to be. He did *rise* to the throne in power; instead, He accepted a path to the throne that led *downward*, through pain and death. That's why later in this very week, these cheering crowds would disperse and abandon Him. "A *crucified* king?" Not what they wanted.

Many in our world today still look past Jesus. Maybe you do, too. He is to many just a heart-warming legend, a loving teacher, but definitely not someone to obey—not a *king*. But we who know Him worship Him as our rightful King and loving Ruler, no matter the whims of the crowd. We worship Him today, the Royal Messiah—our King, Jesus Christ.

JESUS IN THE PSALMS: FORSAKEN ONE (GOOD FRIDAY)

Jesus was the ultimate Forsaken One behind the laments of the Psalms.

SCRIPTURE		MUSIC
SERVICE	[Collected Scriptures below.]	Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed At the Cross Here Is Love His Robes for Mine How Deep the Father's Love My Jesus, Fair Near the Cross O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Rock of Ages Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted When I Survey the Wondrous Cross The Holy Heart (Arr. Ijames) SATB
DAILY	[None developed in 2020 under COVID-19 remote worship circumstances.]	

The following is a complete Lord's Table service (designed for Good Friday) with readings, Scripture, and congregational singing. Service lasts under one hour. Service is designed for a Scripture reader and in introductory reader. Scriptures and Readings are written below the service order.

1. Welcome & Prayer
2. **Forsaken One – Collected Scriptures 1**
3. **Forsaken One – Reading 1**
4. How Deep the Father's Love for Us
5. Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed
6. **Forsaken One – Collected Scriptures 2**
7. **Forsaken One – Reading 2**
8. Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted
9. Rock of Ages
10. [Message]
11. **Forsaken One – Collected Scriptures 3**
12. Near the Cross
13. When I Survey

FORSAKEN ONE – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES I

These verses from Psalms are all quoted in the New Testament in reference to Jesus' suffering and death.

Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed.¹⁸

“They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head.¹⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.²⁰ All they that see me laugh me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ‘He trusted on the LORD that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.’²¹

FORSAKEN ONE – READING I

You can hear the sorrow of betrayal in the psalmist’s voice. “They hate me without a cause. My friend has betrayed me. I have been abandoned. They laugh at my confidence in God.” One of the deepest hurts we can feel is when people turn on us—when the people we confided in are now against us.

Jesus experienced this betrayal to an extreme degree as He went to the cross. His friend Judas betrayed him. The rest of His friends ran away as soon as He was put under arrest. The religious leaders and governing officials conspired unjustly against Him. Even as He was nailed to the cross, the crowds laughed—no pity, no compassion, only mocking. “He trusted in God? Let Him deliver him!”

Imagine how alone Jesus felt now? His very presence in the world was an expression of infinite love to all mankind; yet now, they had all left Him to face the cross alone. What kept Him on this isolated path? Hebrews 12 says, it was the “joy set before Him” that inspired Jesus to “endure the cross” and dismiss its shame. This joy? A relationship with us. He was forsaken that we could be welcomed. He was bleeding so that we could be healed. He died so we could live.

¹⁸ Psalm 2:1–2

¹⁹ Psalm 69:4a

²⁰ Psalm 41:9

²¹ Psalm 22:7–8

FORSAKEN ONE – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES 2

“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.²² They gave me also gall for my [food]; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”²³ He keepeth all His bones; not one of them is broken.²⁴

“My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?²⁵ ... Into Thine hand I commit My spirit.”²⁶

FORSAKEN ONE – READING 2

So specific! These psalms, written centuries before Jesus’ death, foretell that His captors will haggle for His cloak, offer Him gall and vinegar to drink, and yet not break one of His bones! These prophetic details remind us that Christ’s crucifixion was no ordinary execution of a political threat; Christ’s death was an atoning Sacrifice, carefully planned from eternity past and foretold by God through the Old Testament authors. Nothing about Jesus’ abandonment and crucifixion was an accident, in the plan of God.

But the deepest loneliness and greatest suffering of Christ came when God the Father “turned His back” on Jesus, as the skies darkened. A rift of fellowship formed in the Trinity as God the Father poured out His wrath for sin on His own Son. In that moment, Jesus cried the words of Psalm 22, “My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?” We cannot comprehend it. But when Jesus “became sin” for us, God turned away. He unleashed His fury upon His own Son, that we might escape it.

And yet the Son remained true. Moments before He died, He submitted Himself to the Father with another line from the Psalms: “Into Your hand I commit my spirit.” And His life left Him. God the Son died.

²² Psalm 22:18

²³ Psalm 69:21

²⁴ Psalm 34:20

²⁵ Psalm 22:1

²⁶ Psalm 31:5a

FORSAKEN ONE – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES 3

The New Testament epistles explain the significance of Jesus' death.

Romans 5:6–9 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure [or perhaps] for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth [He demonstrates] His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For He [God] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us—who knew no sin—that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 – For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

JESUS IN THE PSALMS: RISEN VICTOR (EASTER)

Jesus was not left to decay in the grave but is risen to reign victorious forever.

SCRIPTURE		MUSIC
SERVICE	[Collected Scriptures below.]	Blessed Be the Name Christ the Lord Is Risen Today Crown Him with Many Crowns Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise! I Know that My Redeemer Lives In Christ Alone Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious See the Christ
DAILY	[None developed in 2020 under COVID-19 remote worship circumstances.]	Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed! (Getty/Cash/Arr. Koerts) SATB It Is Not Death to Die (Malan, Bethune & Kauflin/arr Wells) SATB

The following Scripture and Introductory reading was developed for a simplified Easter livestream worship service. It was designed during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.

RISEN VICTOR – COLLECTED SCRIPTURES

The following verses from Psalms are quoted in the New Testament in reference to Jesus' resurrection and victory.

“Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”²⁷ Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive; Thou hast received gifts for men—yea, for the rebellious also—that the LORD God might dwell among them.²⁸ The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.²⁹

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, ‘Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.’”³⁰

The LORD said unto my Lord, “Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion: rule Thou in the midst of thine enemies.” ... The LORD hath sworn and will not [turn back], “Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”³¹

“Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter of Thy kingdom is a right scepter. Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.”³²

²⁷ Psalm 16:10

²⁸ Psalm 68:18

²⁹ Psalm 118:22-23

³⁰ Psalm 2:7-9

³¹ Psalm 110:1-2, 4

³² Psalm 45:6-7

RISEN VICTOR – INTRODUCTORY READING

Today, Christians around the world are celebrating the supernatural event, Christ coming back to life after He was dead. We believe it happened. It's hard to explain the existence of Christianity any other way. All four Gospels record the resurrection as a factual event, but one that none of Jesus' disciples saw coming. What's more, Luke's gospel begins with an open invitation for anyone to check his facts; he has "done his research" and interviewed eyewitnesses, he says.

Even non-Christian historians agree that many of the early New Testament writings were written within the lifetimes of those who knew Jesus personally. So the claim of His resurrection could easily have been debunked, if it were false, by hundreds of eyewitnesses—before Christianity gained any traction. And yet Christianity, whose foundational claim was the resurrection of Jesus, spread rapidly even under persecution. You don't die for a hoax. But the first generation of Christians died by the hundreds for their belief that Jesus was the Son of God, once crucified, now resurrected bodily from the tomb.

But other, much older writings, pointed toward the resurrection, too. The Psalms speak with confidence that the grave is not the end for the people of God. "He will not leave me in the grave or allow His Holy One to decay," says the psalmist. After Jesus' resurrection, these words find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Himself. Alongside this subtle resurrection theme in the Psalms is that of the victorious and eternal reign of Messiah. He leads a host of captives. God Himself enthrones Him. His enemies are defeated, and He reigns with justice on the throne of David. All of this is foreshadowed in psalms written centuries before Christ's appearance.

We can't rightly celebrate the resurrection of Jesus without celebrating His eternal reign. Love's redeeming work is done! He is risen! Christ has now taken His rightful place in Heaven, and one day will return to reign on earth! The eternal throne is His by right, for completing the work the Father sent Him to do.

Jesus Christ is risen! Worship Him today, the Risen Victor of the Psalms.