

Introduction – why?

Legitimacy of spending time looking at this Psalm

Q: Why not:

- analyse politics?
- raise money to help NHS?
- combat climate change?
- say something practical about mental health (e.g. sleep, diet, exercise?)

A: because here is the deeper basis to make sense of the global world

- and our personal world (stress, anxiety, fear, worry)

"Fix your thoughts on Jesus the apostle and high priest whom we confess .." Hebrews 3:1

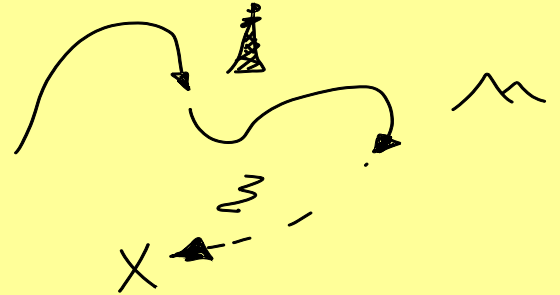
Mysterious trail, mysterious key

Is there a key to life?

Mysterious secrets entice and fascinate us

- Indiana Jones ... start with father's little book
- "Da Vinci Code" ... Venice ..??
- fountain of eternal youth – Sinbad – the island of

Zanubu??



So that, if we follow the trail, we get eternal life?

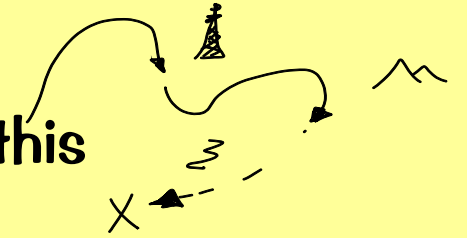
Answer is "yes" – the person in this story.

Point – follow the trail, and it will lead to our destination

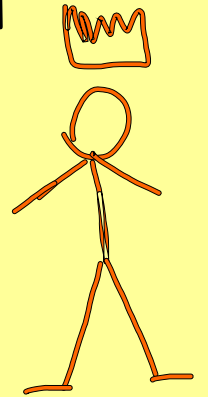
M=Melchizedek

Hebrews sees M as a key to understanding Jesus

- in particular understanding our **HELP** from **HEAVEN** – in this present journey through the wilderness
- understanding how great he is



We started by going back to Genesis 14 – the original history of M = the King/Priest to whom even Abram gave reverence



Today we follow the trail many centuries further.

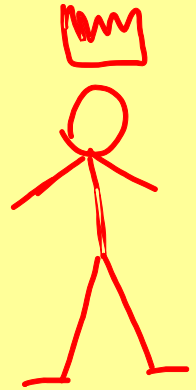
Abram has become a father of a nation – Kingdom → whole earth

Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – Introduction

Today we are looking at a Psalm of David

David – God's appointed King

- "son" / "Father" in a real sense (but not fullest sense)
- in Zion (Jerusalem) – God's HQ on earth
- with a "forever" promise hanging around
- with a "wherever" promise hanging around

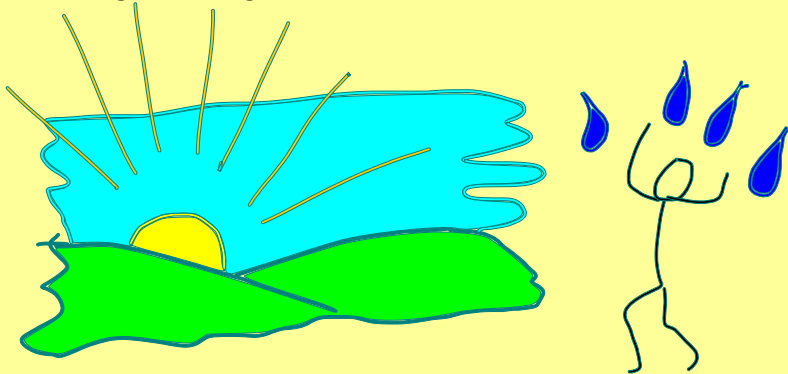


Psalm = song, spiritual, inspired by God himself for David to write/sing → for us too

- adoration
- here a prophetic vision
- David – type – future ... LORD/King ... Zion ... forever ... wherever

Psalm 110 - Melchizedek -

v.1 LORD says to my Lord
v.1,2 ruling over enemies by
divine agency -sceptre/King
v.3 his people are willing to offer
themselves
v.3c refreshed with new life in a
watery way



v.4 the LORD has sworn
v.4 priest - for ever
v.5 crushing Kings by Lord's
help
...
v.6 crushing heads
v.7 renewed and lifted in a
watery way

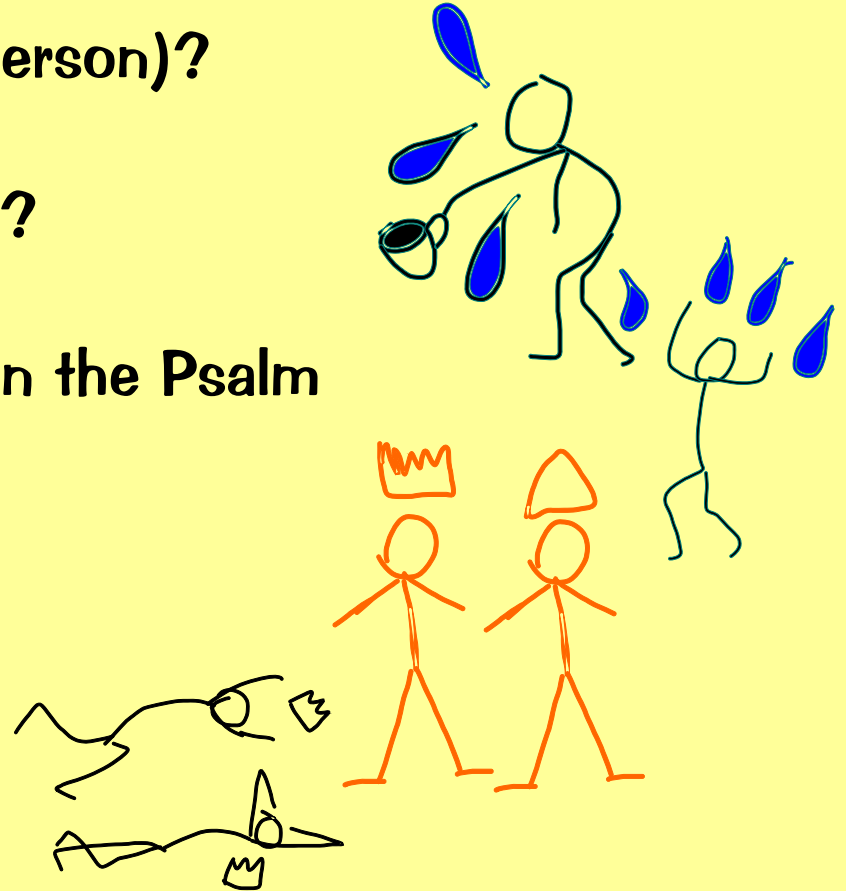


Psalm 110 - Melchizedek -

Questions:

- who is this about?
- is it three people, or two people, (or one person)?
- how great is the person(s)
- how to we respond to this prophetic vision?

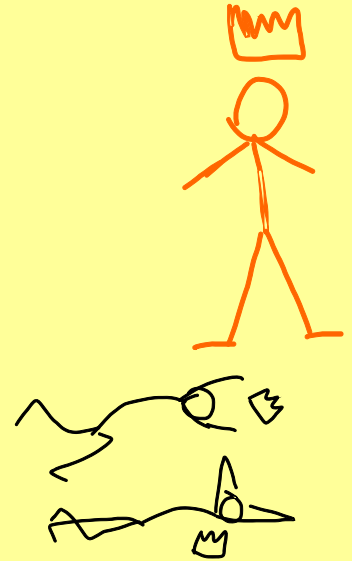
So look at 5 amazing features of the figure in the Psalm



Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – amazing features

1. The ultimate power and authority of this Person

- v.1 enemies = footstool
- v.2 Send your sceptre = rule
- v.5 crush Kings
- v.6 judge nations
- v.6 crush heads of wide earth



==> very wide reign, not just localised, but globalised

==> very destructive ... yield or perish

==> final battle ... process "until"

==> chilling threat – if you get this wrong, there will not be a Plan B

==> fear of the Lord – who would dare risk this awful fate ?

Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – amazing features

2. The precious union of King and Priest

- two halves are about the same person
- David's Lord is a King/Priest

i.e. he combines ... military power with perfectly aligned closeness to God

e.g. Harry and Meghan – have the ear of the Queen???

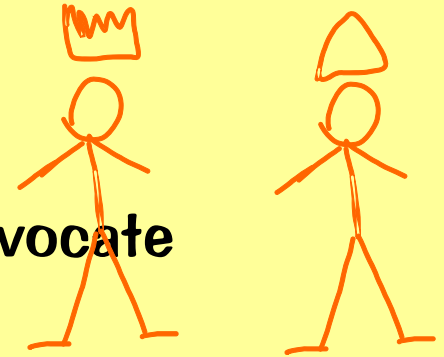
==> not seen in Israel ... generally forbidden

==> yet the future culmination

N.B. the capacity of the King to be a compassionate Advocate

An all-competent go-between

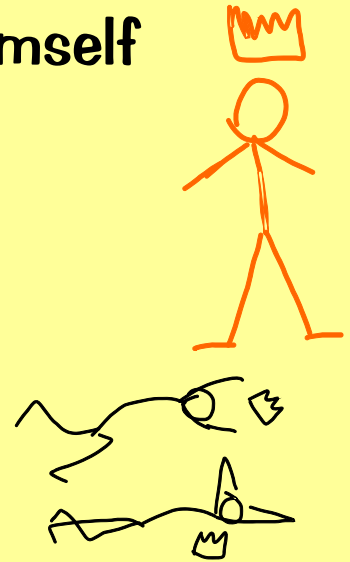
//e.g. call centre ... the impotent caller ... the person with the ability to make all the arrangements necessary



Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – amazing features

3. The seamless closeness of this person and the LORD himself

- v.1 "sit at my right hand"
- v.1 "I will make ..."
- v.2 "you will rule ..."
- v.5 the LORD is at your right hand
- v.5 "the Lord = this person ... will crush, drink"



- The King who is God-endorsed
- The King who is God-enabled
- The King who is God-empowered

N.B. the resurrection sermon – *"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ"* Acts 2:36 – quoting Psalm 110

Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – amazing features

4. "Until ... Forever"

- v.1 "until your enemies a footstool for your feet"
- v.4 priest for ever

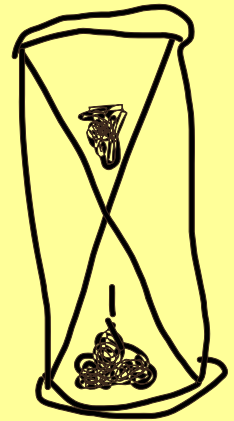
==> not just a temporary leader, minister, emperor

==> into eternity

==> a cosmic figure

// "for by him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible ... all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together ..."

Colossians 1:16 – about Jesus Christ



Psalm 110 - Melchizedek – amazing features

5. Supernaturally revived, renewed

- *v.3 receive the dew of your youth from the womb of the dawn*
- *v.7 drink from a brook ... thus lift up his head*

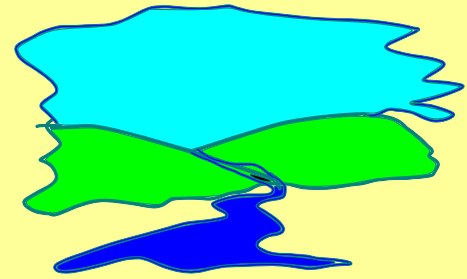
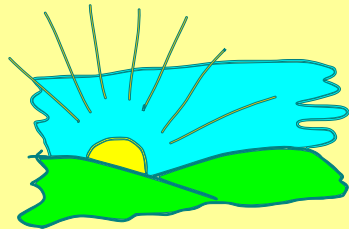
i.e. a great expenditure of effort ... depletion of strength

+ vivid, spectacular replenishment of youth / vigour

// echo of the dawn of the day of resurrection – new life - deathlessness

// echo of the receiving of the Spirit ... the pouring out of the Spirit

==> the gift of new life to his people



Psalm 110 - Melchizedek -

Questions and answers:

- **who is this about?**

- is about someone who is predicted in Hebrew Scriptures
- but someone who surpasses the Hebrew Scriptures

- **is it three people, or two people, (or one person)?**

- it is about one person
- in the closest working [Trinitarian] relationship with the LORD himself

- **how great is the person(s)**

- so great that he is David's Lord

- **how to we respond to this prophetic vision?**

we give divine honour to Jesus whom they crucified as Lord and Christ

==> we willingly lay our lives at his feet & offer ourselves in his service

==> confess "God has placed all things under his feet and given him to

be head over everything for the church ..." Ephesians 1:22 as we view this world

pandemic: the LORD is in process of putting all things under his feet



The hooks to hang our response on:

- 1. The ultimate power and authority of this Person**
- 2. The precious union of King and Priest**
- 3. The seamless closeness of this person and the LORD himself**
- 4. "Until ... Forever"**
- 5. Supernaturally revived, renewed**

Amen -