

CHRIST'S PURPOSE IN COMING TO EARTH

Text: Psalm 40

INTRO: This psalm, unlike many of the Messianic psalms, is not totally Messianic. Only the middle section, vs. 6-10 are the words of Christ. The other portions of the psalm belong to David himself.

- I. DAVID SPEAKS OF THE BLESSINGS THAT COME TO THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD, vs. 1-5.
- II. BY THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, THRU DAVID'S PEN, CHRIST SPEAKS OF HIS PURPOSES FOR COMING TO EARTH, vs. 6-10.
 - A. He replaces the continual sacrifices & burnt offerings of the OT system, vs. 6.
 1. Even under the OT, obedience was emphasized more than sacrifice.

Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. (1 Sam 15:22)

For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6).

2. On at least 2 occasions Jesus quoted the statement of Hosea
 - a. When the Pharisees rebuked Him for eating with customs agents & sinners.

But go & learn what this means: 'I desire mercy & not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (MT 9:13)

2. On at least 2 occasions Jesus quoted the statement of Hosea
 - b. When His disciples were scolded for plucking & eating grain on the Sabbath.
But if you had known what this means, 'I desire

mercy & not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. (MT. 12:7)

B. He came to fulfill the Scriptures, vs. 7.

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses & the Prophets & the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. (Luke 24:44-45).

C. He came to do God's will in every detail, vs. 8.

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. (John 4:34).

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice & offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.' " Previously saying, "Sacrifice & offering, burnt offerings, & offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. (Heb. 10:5-9).

D. He came to make known God's plan for making man righteous, vs. 9-10.

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, & every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4God also bearing witness both with signs & wonders, with various miracles, & gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Heb 2:2-4)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first & also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
(Romans 1:16-17)

III. IN THE THIRD & FINAL SECTION OF THIS PSALM, DAVID AGAIN SPEAKS, & PETITIONS GOD FOR MERCY, FORGIVENESS, DELIVERANCE & VINDICATION.

- A. Prayer for mercy & forgiveness, vs. 11-12.
- B. Prayer for deliverance from his enemies, vs. 13-15.
NOTE: This section corresponds with Psalm 70:1-3.
- C. Prayer for vindication & blessings upon the righteous, vs. 16-17. NOTE: Corresponds to Psalm 70:4-5.

La Porte, TX, September 26, 1982
Exton, PA, February 12, 1989
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 24, 2001