PSALM 110: CHRIST, THE KING-PRIEST

INTRO: This psalm is one of the most fully Messianic portions of the O.T. and is the psalm quoted most frequently in the N.T. It views the kingship and priesthood Jesus Christ.

VERSE 1-2

A. Vs. 1 is quoted by Jesus in Matt. 22:41-45; Mark 12:35-37 & Luke 20:41-44 to show His Deity as well as His humanity.

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool' '? "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore. (Matt. 22:41-45).

B. Simon Peter quoted this verse to establish the fact that Christ's reign as king had begun.

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:33-36).

C. The Hebrew writer quotes this verse to show Christ's superiority over the angels.

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?
D. Again, the Hebrew writer quotes this verse to show that the sacrificial work of Jesus has been completed.

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Heb. 10:11-14).

E. Paul also has this passage in view in Eph. 1:20-23, as he summarizes all these elements.

which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality & power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, & gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:20-23).

VERSE 3-4.
Quoted numerous times in the 5th, 6th, & 7th chapters of Hebrews. Let us look especially at Hebrews, chapter 7:

A. Jesus, like Melchizedek, is a king & a priest at the same time, 7:1-2.

"He shall be a priest on His throne" (Zech 6:13)

B. His priesthood does not depend upon human lineage, 7:3

C. The Melchizedek priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood, 7:4-10

D. Christ's priesthood necessitates a change in the law from the law of Moses to the law of Christ, 7:11-14.
E. Christ's priesthood has its basis in God's oath, 7:21-22.
F. Christ's priesthood is an eternal priesthood, 7:23-28.

VERSES 5-7.
A. Christ's warfare is pictured in language derived from conquest in carnal warfare, but it should be emphasized that the figure is fulfilled primarily in the spiritual warfare between Christ & His enemies.

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth & with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (Isa 11:4).

For tho we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds... (2 Cor 10:3-4).

For we do not wrestle against flesh & blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places... take... the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. (Eph 6:12, 17).

B. Note that Christ is now at the right hand of the Father, ruling over the nations (Gentiles), vs. 6.

Who has gone into heaven & is at the right hand of God, angels & authorities & powers having been made subject to Him. (1 Peter 3:22).

Matthew 28:18-20

C. To complete the picture of Christ as a conquering king, the psalmist pictures Him as being refreshed, even in the midst of the battle, vs. 7a.

D. Victorious over all His enemies, He holds His head high in exaltation, vs. 7b.
You made him a little lower than the angels; You
crowned him with glory & honor, & set him over the
works of Your hands. You have put all things in
subjection under his feet. (Heb. 2:7-8).  [Psa 8:5-6]

E.  Christ now reigns & will continue to reign till all God's
faithful children are at home in heaven.

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to
God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all
authority & power. For He must reign till He has put all
enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be
destroyed is death.  (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

La Porte, TX, October 31, 1982
Exton, PA, March 26, 1989
South Loop, Taylor, TX, June 20, 1996 (meeting)
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 23, 1996
Susquehanna, Mareitta, PA, July 15, 2001