

# The Royal Psalms

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OT 613 – Psalms (2 credits)

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**I. Definition:** The Royal Psalms have their foundation in the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:11-16). These songs deal with the theme of kingship and in one way or another contribute to the Messianic hope. Not all Messianic psalms are Royal Psalms, but in some way all Royal Psalms are Messianic. Some are uniquely Messianic, referring to Christ as the ideal fulfillment of God's promise to David. Others refer to David himself or his natural descendants while typically pointing to Christ as the ideal King.

## II. Elements of Davidic Covenant

- A. Divine confirmation of the throne in Israel
- B. The perpetuity of the Davidic dynasty
- C. The King as the Son of God
- D. Unconditional promise (kings liable to error and punishment but dynasty continues)
- E. Emphasis on Divine initiative

## III. Examples

- A. Psalm 2: *The Coronation of God's Anointed*
- B. Psalm 18: *The King's Salvation*
- C. Psalms 20, 21: *Prayer for the King and the Answer to Prayer*
- D. Psalm 45: *The Royal Wedding* (note verse 6 is one of the most explicit references in OT concerning Messiah's deity; cf. Heb. 1:8, 9)
- E. Psalm 72: *The Nature of the King's Rule*
- F. Psalm 89: *Lament for the House of David* (note that this represents a detailed commentary on the Davidic Covenant)
- G. Psalm 101: *Guidance for Rulers*
- H. Psalm 110: *The King and the Priest*
- I. Psalm 132: *The Oath to David* (note Solomon quotes from this song at the dedication of the Temple, 2 Chron. 6:41, 42)
- J. Psalm 144: *Royal Welfare Patterns of Deliverance* (similar to Ps. 18)

| Psalm | Subject   | NT Parallels  | Summary of Messianic Meaning (clues to exclusive Messianic Interpretation)                |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 8     | Christ in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Person<br>Humiliation & Glory | Heb. 2:5-10<br>1 Cor. 15:27                                     | all things under His feet, which cannot apply to mankind as a whole                       |
| 72    | Rule  |   | His reign is forever; His territory is universal; all worship Him                         |
| 89    | Davidic Covenant  | Acts 2:30   | the seed of David is eternal  |
| 45    | Christ in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Person<br>External Thorne     | Heb. 1:8-9  | He is God, yet distinct from the Father   |
| 102   | Eternity  | Heb. 1:10-12  | change in person between Jehovah (1-22) to God (24); Christ is men's hope for continuance |
| 110   | Ascension & Priesthood                                      | Mt. 22:43-45;<br>Acts 2:33-35;<br>Heb. 1:13; 5:6-10; 6:20, etc. | He is David's Lord, an eternal high priest  |
| 109   | Judas cursed  | Acts 1:16-20  | the plurality of adversaries shifts to one predominant betrayer                           |
| 132   | Davidic Covenant  | Acts 2:30   | the seed of David is eternal  |
| 2     | Christ in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Person<br>Kissing the Son     | Acts 4:25-28;<br>13:33;<br>Heb. 1:5; 5:5                        | speaker is God's begotten Son; an anointed one distinct from David                        |
| 16    | Incorruption  | Acts 2:24-31;<br>13:35-37                                       | not seeing corruption cannot apply to David   |
| 22    | Passion   | Mt. 27:35-46;<br>Jn. 19:23-25;<br>Heb. 2:12                     | pierced hands and feet, lots cast over garments; not true of David                        |
| 40    | Incarnation   | Heb. 10:5-10  | David did not always delight to do God's will but Christ did                              |
| 69    | Judas cursed  | Acts 1:16-20  | Specific desolate habitation, narrowed to Judas   |