

Stories of Christmas

Psalms Tell About Jesus - Exaltation

Psalms

Opening

- Gathering: What evidences have you seen that Jesus is God?
- Today's Focus: Hundreds of years before Jesus came, God revealed how He would exalt the Messiah to His right hand by sending His righteous Son, Jesus, who was fully God.
- Key Verses: *God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
Philippians 2:9-11

The Lord (Yahweh) says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand..." Psalm 110:1

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Exaltation - Jesus is God (*Philippians 2:9-11*)

- What did last week's lesson from Isaiah tell us about Jesus?
Philippians 2:5-8 = Humiliation - He humbled Himself and became man
- What does today's lesson from Psalms tell us about Jesus?
Philippians 2:9-11 = Exaltation - He is God and is exalted above all
- How does John begin his gospel that points out the divinity of Jesus?
John 1:1-3 = *In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God.*
- What was this *Word*?
John 1:14a = Jesus - *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*
- How did Jesus try to make it clear to Philip that He was God?
John 14:9 = *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*

Psalm 2 - *Jesus the King* = 1-6 is God the Father; 7-9 is God the Son; 10-12 is God the Holy Spirit

- How does this song say the promised Messiah would be received by the world?
Psalm 2:1-3 = The world would oppose Him - *The Anointed One* = Messiah, Christ
- Did the disciples understand this was God's plan when they encountered opposition?
Acts 4:25-29 = They remembered this verse in a prayer for God's strength
- How does God react to threats against the completion of His plan?
Psalm 2:4-6 = He laughs at human arrogance, man cannot alter God's plan
- What is Zion?
Hebrews 12:22-23 = God's holy people and heavenly nation over all time
- Did Jesus recognize His calling to be exalted as God's King on Zion?
John 18:36 = *My kingdom is not of this world ... it is from another place*
- How does Jesus describe His exaltation in this Psalm?
Psalm 2:7-9 = He states the "decree" with which the Father exalted Him
- What events of His exaltation are Jesus referring to in verse 7?
Matthew 3:16-17 = His baptism
Matthew 17:2-3, 5 = His transfiguration with Moses and Elijah
- How does God the Spirit then convince the world of its sin and guide it to truth?
Psalm 2:10-12 = He warns the world to serve God's King

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Psalm 16 - *A Prayer of the Messiah*

How does the Messiah begin His prayer to the Father?

Psalm 16:1-2 = Shows His reliance and devotion to the Father

How does the Messiah feel about the people in this world He was sent into?

Psalm 16:3-4 = He delights in those who follow Him, rejects those who reject Him

Did Jesus sense any exaltation through the people the Father had given to Him?

John 17:9-10 = He thanked God for them and the glory that came to Him thru them

How does the Messiah recognize His role in bringing His people into the new Promised Land?

Psalm 16:5-6 = Note land distribution terms - *portion, lot, boundary lines, inheritance*

How was the Messiah's role similar to that of the Levites who were given no land inheritance?

Numbers 18:20 = As the Great High Priest, Jesus' inheritance was God

How did the Messiah feel about the suffering He would undergo in saving His people?

Psalm 16:7-11 = He rejoiced in knowing God's plans to raise and exalt Him

How did Peter use this verse on Pentecost to prove that Jesus was the Messiah?

Acts 2:22-32 = God's eternal plan was that Jesus would die, but not stay in the grave

Psalm 110 - *The Exalted King-Priest Messiah* = One of most quoted Psalms in New Testament

How does David begin this song with a verse that confused the Jews?

Psalm 110:1 = *The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand..."*

How did Peter use this verse in the continuation of his Pentecost speech?

Acts 2:33-37 = Jesus was exalted to the Father's right hand as David had prophesied

How did Jesus better use this verse in explaining how He was both God and man?

Matthew 22:41-46 = The Messiah was both David's descendant and Lord

How does this Psalm show Jesus as God's mighty King? = scepter - gospel; troops - Christians

Psalm 110:2-3 = holy majesty - sanctification; dew of youth - countless new believers

How does Peter describe this kingdom?

1 Peter 2:9 = *A chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, people belonging to God*

How does this great King protect His kingdom?

Psalm 110:5-7 = He destroys their enemies on His day of wrath

How is God's *Anointed One* also considered His Priest?

Psalm 110:4 = A great priest in the order of Melchizedek

Who was Melchizedek? = Genesis 14:17-20

Hebrews 7:1-2, 4 = A great priest to whom Abraham gave a tithe after a victory

What is the point of Jesus as a great priest in the order of Melchizedek? = from Judah, not Levi

Hebrews 7:11-12, 15-19 = A new covenant *by which we draw near to God*

How long will this new covenant last?

Hebrews 7:20-24 = Since Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood

Why is this permanent priesthood important to us?

Hebrews 7:25 = Our salvation is assured because Jesus is always there to intercede for us

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Psalm 118 - *His Love Endures Forever*

What is the obvious theme of this Psalm?

Psalm 118:1-4 = God's love endures forever

What does this theme mean for our everyday lives?

Psalm 118:5-16 = Trust in the Lord in everything and He will take care of you

What was Martin Luther's personal motto and why should we also learn it?

Psalm 118:17 = Jesus has given us eternal life and we should tell everyone

What should we remember during tough times?

Psalm 118:18-21 = He will not abandon us, but will give us salvation

How does this song of praise explain how God has given us salvation?

Psalm 118:22-23 = *The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone*

Who were the builders that rejected Jesus?

Matthew 21:42-45 = The Jews rejected Him, He became Christians' cornerstone

What prophecies of Isaiah also point to Jesus as God's exalted and precious rock?

1 Peter 2:4-8 = *I lay a stone in Zion and A stone that causes men to stumble*

Knowing what God has done for us, how should we approach each day?

Psalm 118:24 = *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it*

What other great reminders of God's love do we have in this Psalm?

Psalm 118:25-29 = *Blessed is he who comes ... his love endures forever*

Creeds, Our Statements of Faith = Developed in the early years of the church

Nicene Creed - Speaks to the Divinity of Jesus = 325AD by council in Nicea

Apostles' Creed - Speaks to the Humanity of Jesus = Probably around 100AD

Humbled Himself as man (steps down)

was conceived by the Holy Spirit

(Luke 1:35)

born of the virgin Mary

(Matthew 1:23)

suffered under Pontius Pilate

(John 18:28...)

was crucified

(John 19:18)

died and was buried

(John 19:30, 42)

Exalted in victory over the grave (steps up)

He descended into hell

(Eph 4:8-10, 1 Peter 3:19-20)

the third day He rose again from the dead

(Matthew 28:1-10)

He ascended into heaven

(Luke 24:50-51)

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty

(Eph 1:19-22)

from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead

(John 5:28-30)

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Jesus - Both God and Man

How much of God is in Jesus?

Colossians 2:9 (also 1:19) = *in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives*

Why was it important for Jesus to be fully God?

Matthew 11:25-27 = Allowed God to reveal Himself and His plan to His world

Matthew 1:23 = Jesus was called Immanuel (*God with us*)

Why was it important for Jesus to be man?

Hebrews 2:14-15 = To share in our humanity and destroy Satan by his death

Was Jesus just God in man's clothing or fully man?

Hebrews 2:17-18 = *He had to be made like his brothers in every way...*

Luke 2:7 = Born of a woman

The Full Powers of Humanity

What did people who saw Jesus raised as a child think about his powers?

Matthew 13:54-56 = They were amazed & wondered where He got His powers

Did Jesus have these powers because He was God?

Matthew 17:18-21 = No, these powers are available to anyone with faith

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What things have I exalted above Him who is in the highest place?
(Philippians 2:9a; Matthew 6:19-24; 10:37; 19:21-24; Ephesians 1:19-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
2. When have I despised or abused the name that is above all names?
(Philippians 2:9b; Exodus 20:7; Psalm 29:2; Malachi 1:6-8; Matthew 5:33-37; Luke 11:2; Hebrews 1:4)
3. In what ways have I bowed my knee to the name of Jesus?
(Philippians 2:10a; 1 Kings 19:18; Psalm 95:6-7; Luke 5:8; Romans 14:8-12; Ephesians 3:14-21)
4. How have I helped spread the name of Jesus on earth?
(Philippians 2:10b; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 5:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 8:4; Colossians 4:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)
5. How do I confess and reveal that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life?
(Philippians 2:11; Matthew 7:15-23; John 12:42-43; Romans 10:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 Peter 3:15; Hebrews 13:15)

Next Week - *Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecy* (Matthew)

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Our Statements of Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
The Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried;
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand
of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to
judge both the living and the dead
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian
and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
The Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ,
His only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again
from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.

From thence he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.