

First, in Her sure establishment: 'They that trust in the Lord, *shall be* as mount Zion, *which* cannot be removed, *but* remaineth forever' (125:1). Secondly, in Her perseverance through suffering: 'By the rivers of Table we sat, and there wept, when we remembered Zion' (137:1). Thirdly, Christ is honoured in blessing His Church with purity and, at times, prosperity: 'The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of bordered gold' (45:13). The Psalms thus show Christ's magnificence in subduing for Himself a people, who gather together to sing His praise: 'I rejoiced when they said to me, We will go into the house of the Lord' (122:1).

## V

### The Victory of Christ over the Nations

'His dominion shall be also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth' (72:8). There is an undeniable truth found in the Psalter - the Kingdom of Christ will extend throughout every land before His return. This is neither mere hope, nor optimistic longing, but rather a certain promise: 'He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. All the earth, sing ye loud unto to Lord: cry out and rejoice, and sing praises' (98:3-4). As we sing the Psalms, the Church hears Her commission: 'Declare his glory among all nations, *and* his wonders among all people. For the Lord *is* great and much to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods' (97:3-4). The Psalter is clear: God will bless His Church, advance the Gospel, and Christ will worshipped by every nation; 'God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him' (67:7).

## VI

### The Victory of Christ in His Return

'For he is come to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world: and the

people with equity' (98:9). The Psalms declare the victory of Christ in the certainty that He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. He will bring with Him salvation to those whose trust is in Him: 'His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the land' (25:13). For the wicked, Christ will bring forth eternal judgment: 'For thou art not a God that loveth wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: *for* thou hatest all them that work iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak lies: the Lord will abhor the bloody man and deceitful' (5:4-6). Thus, the Church sings with confidence and surety: 'Sing ye unto the Lord a new song: let his praise *be heard* in the Congregation of Saints... For the Lord hath pleasure in his people: he will make the meek glorious by deliverance' (149:1, 4).

### Conclusion: The Christian's Response

Knowing that Christ is supreme and victorious over all, consider these four attitudes with which we come before the Lord in our praise. Let us sing unto the Lord our God the songs of Zion:

- 1) *With the Joy of the Lord* - for our God is the great God and King, Who has made us and redeemed us to Himself freely of His grace. 'O my God *and* King, I will extol thee, and will bless thy Name forever and ever' (145:1).
- 2) *With Longing for Deliverance* - for we live as sinners in a sinful world, yet Christ has overcome the world. 'I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry' (40:1).
- 3) *With Dependence upon God* - for we are fully reliant upon His strength and blessing in order to obey His will. 'God be merciful unto us, and bless us, *and* cause his face to shine among us' (67:1).
- 4) *With Faith in Christ* - for He is our only and sure Saviour. 'God *is* our hope and strength, *and* help in troubles, ready to be found' (46:1).



## *Singing with Hope: The Victory of Christ in the Psalms*

A Pamphlet to Encourage  
Believers & Covenant Families

*'His dominion shall also be from sea  
to sea, and from the river unto the ends  
of the land.'*

## Introduction

The Psalms - which are the inspired, authoritative and sufficient hymn-book of the Church - are to be sung with great joy, as well as comprehension, being the Word of Christ dwelling richly in our hearts. As such, it is beneficial for Christians to understand primary themes in the Psalter, so that they may sing with all the more fervor and confidence. One particular theme found throughout the Psalms is the supreme victory of Christ Jesus over all things. As believers and covenant families meditate on this recurring truth found throughout the Church's beloved song-book, may we grow in our confidence not only in the ultimate triumph of Christ among all nations, but in the Lord Himself, our Saviour.

### I

#### The Victory of Christ in His Humiliation

'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me... For dogs have compassed me, *and* the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced mine hands and my feet... They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture' (22:1, 16, 18). In these words of Psalm 22, the passion of the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed. Throughout the Psalter, the humiliation (birth, life and ministry, death and burial) of our Lord is clear. He is the greater David who was so grievously despised by His enemies: 'The proud have laid a snare for me, and spread a net with cords in my pathway' (140:5). He was betrayed: 'Surely mine enemy did not defame me... but *it was* thou, O man, even my companion, my guide, and my familiar' (55:12-13). He was afflicted that we should be saved through Him: 'For thine arrows have light upon me, and thine hand lieth upon me' (38:2). He was abandoned for our sake that we should be brought into communion with God: 'Lord, why dost thou reject my soul, *and* hide thy face from me?' (88:14). And what is the reward for His suffering? The Psalms show us the victory

of Christ, even in His humiliation: 'All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee' (22:27). Because of the substitutionary and propitious work of our Saviour, we may sing with confidence: 'Praise the Lord, ye that fear him: magnify ye him, all the seed of Jacob and fear ye him all the seed of Israel' (22:23).

### II

#### The Victory of Christ in His Resurrection

'Thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave: neither wilt thou suffer thine holy One to see corruption' (16:10). There is no need for the Christian to question who is the speaker in this verse: it is a prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ by David, as the Apostle Peter proclaims, 'Therefore, seeing he was a Prophet, and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would raise up Christ concerning the flesh, to set him upon his throne. He knowing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul should not be left in grave, neither his flesh should see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are witnesses' (Acts 2:30-32). The Psalter proclaims of the victory of Christ over the grave, as He is risen for our justification (Romans 4:25). Psalm 118, which was customarily the Psalm sung at the conclusion of Passover and likely sung after Christ instituted the Lord's Supper and prepared to deliver Himself to be crucified, tells of Christ's resurrection: 'I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has chastened me sore, but he hath not delivered me to death' (118:17-18; Mark 14:26). Our Lord did suffer death and was buried, but the third day He arose from the grave. Indeed, the Lord Christ after His resurrection instructs the disciples on the road to Emmaus: 'And he began at Moses, and at all the Prophets, and interpreted unto them in all the Scriptures the things which were *written* of

him' (Luke 24:27). This would include His resurrection, as clearly shown in the Psalms. And because Christ is risen from the grave, we too shall be raised and with Him. Thus we sing with such hope: 'I will behold thy face in righteousness, *and* when I wake, I shall be satisfied with thine image' (17:15).

### III

#### The Victory of Christ in His Present Reign

'The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool' (110:1). This Psalm, which is the most quoted passage in the New Testament, testifies that Christ is not only victorious in accomplishing our redemption by His life, death and resurrection; but also in His present and sovereign reign. He is the One of Whom we declare, 'Thy Throne, O God, *is* forever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom, *is* a scepter of righteousness' (45:6). He is glorious King over all nations, to Whom all kings are to give their allegiance: 'I have set my King upon Zion mine holy mountain... Be wise now therefore, ye kings: be learned ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord in fear, and rejoice in trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish in the way, when his wrath shall suddenly burn. Blessed are all that trust in him' (2:6, 10-12). He is the Eternal Word, the Son of Man, Who sits on the eternal throne: 'The Lord reigneth, *and* is clothed with majesty: the Lord is clothed, *and* girded with power, the world also shall be established, that it cannot be moved' (93:1). Because the Lord reigns upon His throne, we may sing with confidence: 'The Lord reigneth: let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of the Isles be glad' (97:1).

### IV

#### The Victory of Christ in His Church

The Psalms' witness to the victory of Christ is displayed in His Church in three primary ways.