The Promise of a Royal Priest November 29, 2020

*Psalm 110:4 Series: Christmas Promises*

Where high the heavenly temple stands, the house of God not made with hands, a great High Priest our nature wears, Jesus, the Son of God, appears. – Michael Bruce

Intro: Ariana Grande pops the secular Christmas bubble.

1. Christmas is proof that Jesus can succeed where you’ve failed.
2. God’s future hope overcomes our past regret.

v. 1 *The LORD says to my Lord*

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 *And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them …*

1. God promised a future king holy enough to be a priest.

v. 4 *You are a priest …*

Malachi 2:7 *For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.*

* What’s the secular hope of Christmas that we’re promised in the songs, movies and ads we’re surrounded by?
* Why is the hope of secular Christmas attractive, even to Christians? What’s wrong with that hope?
* What would have caused David regret at the end of his life?
* How would the promise of a royal priest encourage him?
* Why does it matter that Jesus succeeds where we fail?

1. Christmas is proof that Jesus can cover your sins eternally.
2. A priest atones for people’s sins.

v. 4 *You are a priest …*

Leviticus 6:7 *And the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty.*

1. A priest represents us before God.

Job 9:32-33 *For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together. There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus …*

1. This priest brings eternal salvation.

v. 4 *You are a priest forever …*

Hebrews 7:23-25 *The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 5:9-10 *And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.*

* Why would the promise of an eternal priest bring greater hope to David later in his life than the hope of a romantic interest?
* Why did Job feel so lost without an “arbiter” in his trial?
* How is Jesus different than the Old Testament priests?
* In Protestant churches, why don’t we call leaders “priests”?

1. Christmas is proof that Jesus has a better plan for you.
2. Melchizedek foreshadowed righteousness beyond David.

v. 4 *after the order of Melchizedek*

Genesis 14:18 *Melchizedek king of Salem*

Genesis 14:18 *He was priest of God Most High.*

1. Melchizedek foreshadowed blessing beyond Abraham.

Genesis 14:19 *And he blessed [Abraham]*

Hebrews 7:6-7 *But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.*

*John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

1. Psalm 110 was sung by people who needed a better plan.

Psalms 72:20 *The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.*

Hebrews 7:11 *Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?*

* In what sense is Jesus like Melchizedek?
* After Israel’s last king died, why would this psalm have been so important?
* How do you relate to David in applying this promise to your own life?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Isaiah 61:1-4.

Notes