

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“A MESSIANIC RIDDLE”

For individual study or group discussion

In the *Gospel of Luke*, we are examining the final days of Jesus' journey through Jerusalem to the cross. During this time, local leaders publicly confront Jesus with a barrage of questions meant to entrap him. But each time his answers cause them to fall silent. In today's passage, it's the religious leaders who find themselves in the hot seat. In Luke 20:41-44, Jesus turns the tables on his adversaries with a theological question of his own in the form of a **messianic riddle**.

A messianic riddle: Who could be both David's "son" and David's "Lord"? (vv. 41-44)

The writer of Psalm 78:2 suggests that the Messiah would speak in riddles, "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old." After Jesus silences the Sadducees in verse 40, he then utters a riddle, quoting from Psalm 110: "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.' David thus calls him Lord, so how is he his son?" (vv. 42-44). The pinnacle of Messianic psalms, Jesus could not have chosen a more devastating passage to cite to the church leaders. They knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of David. Now they were confronted by the fact that David called the Messiah, *my Lord*.

- In a patriarchal society, the father commands more respect than the son. And as king, David would never have addressed anyone as *Lord* except God himself. Yet in Psalm 110, he calls his descendent *Lord*. Who could be greater than Israel's greatest king? Read 2 Samuel 7. Discuss the covenant God made with David and how it formed the basis for the prophecy found in Psalm 110.
- Read Acts 2:22-41. How does Peter use Psalm 110 to make Jesus' identity clear to the crowd? Note the people's heartfelt response in verse 37. What was the reaction?

The messianic truth: Jesus is David's son and David's Lord. (vv. 42-43)

Second temple Judaism taught that the Messiah would be a descendant of David. But the church leaders were looking for a martial Messiah, one who would deliver Israel from the bondage of Rome. There is no denying that Jesus is a son of David, but their hardened hearts blinded them to his identity as the Son of God. By citing Psalm 110, Jesus points to his imminent exaltation to the right hand of God through his death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus embraces his destiny and goes to the cross for the sins of his people so that he can rise and establish his eternal Kingdom at God's right hand. As one commentator summarizes, "The great riddle of David's prophecy gave way to one of the new covenant's great revelations. We might even summarize the message of the New Testament like this: Psalm 110 has come true! Jesus is not only of David's line but also his Lord, now seated at the Father's right hand. Here, during the greatest week in the history of the world, the Son knows himself not only destined for his Father's right hand, but he acts, by faith, as his Father's right hand. He serves as the ultimate human instrument through which God channels his power to remake the world."¹

- Recall our study of Joshua chapter 10 a few weeks ago. How is the picture of the *enemies as your footstool* illustrated by Joshua 10:24?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:25-28. How does Paul explain the rule and dominion of Jesus the Messiah? How far does it extend?
- Referring to the superiority of Jesus, how does the author of Hebrews use Psalm 110 in Hebrews 1:13 to establish the supremacy of Jesus as God's Son?

DATE: October 6, 2024

SPEAKER: Brian/Wil

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 20:41-44

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 6: Necessity of Prayer

PRAYER: Kind and compassionate God, who eagerly hears our prayers, teach us to pray. We confess that prayer often feels like nothing to us. Give us fresh repentance for such unbelief. Grant us faith to believe that prayer is indeed something immeasurable, necessary, and transforming. Make prayer the first thing among us rather than the last thing. Gather us to pray faithfully and fervently in private, as families, in small groups, and in corporate worship. Where we neglect prayer because of our ruthless independence, frustrate our self-consumed endeavors that we might come to the end of ourselves and truly believe that apart from you we can do nothing. Enthral us with the ultimate end of your glory in all things so that we petition your throne for the advancement of your name and fame in all things rather than our own. As we pray for the advancement of your grand and glorious Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, may our little empires of self be toppled by your benevolent Kingship. As we approach your throne of grace, make us mindful of those who are the least, lonely, lost, and little, not only in our community and city but also throughout the nations. May the mind of Christ our Savior guide our prayer so that your love and power guides all we do and say. We offer this prayer to you so that in all things Christ might be preeminent. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Metanoia Prison Ministries,
strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Boureima, supported national
partner

¹ Mathis, Dave. *He Sealed His Fate with a Song*. April 16, 2019. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/he-sealed-his-fate-with-a-song>. October 1, 2024.