

Summary of the Major Ideas from Jeff's sermon on Dec. 5
David's Son Who is LORD

This text (and its reference to Psalm 110) is too important for us to miss its significance.

Matt. 22:41-46 - ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,
 until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

⁴⁵ If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" ⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Jesus is quoting to the Pharisees Psalm 110:1:

The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand,
 until I make your enemies your footstool."

You notice that the words in Psalm 110:1 and in Matt. 22:44 are almost exactly the same, except for slight variations in 3 or 4 words which don't change the meaning. However, there is one important difference: in Psalm 110:1 we see in our English Bibles that there are two "Lords" mentioned. There is a difference in these two Lords which is indicated to us by our English translators in which the first "Lord" is spelled in all capital letters: "LORD." The second "Lord" only has the first letter capitalized, which indicates, for one thing, that it is a proper name, like we would write "John" with a capital letter.

In our English Old Testament whenever we see the word "LORD" in all capital letters, it is indicating to us that the Hebrew word is "Yahweh," the personal name of God that God revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3.

The second "Lord" that we see in Psalm 110:1 is the translation of the Hebrew word, "Adonai." This word was used in Hebrew to indicate a person of a higher rank than oneself and was sometimes used, for example, to address the king. But it is also used hundreds of times in the OT as a name for God, for example in Joshua 3:11: *11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.*

If we are aware of this linguistic background, it will give us a key to understanding better the point Jesus is making to the Pharisees.

One important point also to understand about Psalm 110 is that it was written by David, as the title of the Psalm indicates. Therefore, it is King David speaking here; he is the writer.

So let's read again what he records that he heard Yahweh say by reading Psalm 110:1 in the Old Testament:

*The LORD says to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand..."*

Now let's insert the two different Hebrew words for God into this sentence:

Yahweh says to my Adonai,
"Sit at my right hand..."

So what David is indicating is that Yahweh is speaking to "my Adonai," and tells him to sit down at his right hand.

Who is this Adonai? We know immediately from the context because Yahweh tells him to "sit down at his right hand." No mere human would have the right or worthiness to do this – only a person of the same nature (and authority and glory) would Yahweh ever tell to sit at his right hand.

To understand who David's Lord is, we need to read the rest of Psalm 110, which indicates at least three other major functions or activities of David's Lord:

1. He is to rule over God's people (as a king) (v. 1-3)
2. He is to be a priest (v. 4) with a never-ending priesthood.
3. He will be the Judge of God's people. (v. 3-7).

All these types of actions are only actions that God can do; they are too great for a mere human being to do. Therefore, this person, the one whom Yahweh tells to sit down, the one whom David calls "my Lord," or more literally, "my Adonai," must be a great divine person, one equal in authority and glory and power with Yahweh. He can be none other than the promised Messiah ("anointed one") or the Christ.

The Pharisees did not understand all this and couldn't put it all together. The point Jesus is making before them is that David's Son is also David's Lord, David's Adonai. Therefore, we see that this Lord has a human ancestry all the way from David, so he is fully human. Yet he is more than human, he is divine, he is of the nature and being of God – which was revealed in all the actions that were his as revealed in Psalm 110.

Jesus is making the point that David's Adonai is both a descendant of David according to human lineage, and he is also divine, he is God. This is the great mystery hidden for generations but revealed in the Gospel, that the Son of God would leave heaven and take upon himself our full human nature, except for sin. He became a man so he could be a proper substitute to absorb God's wrath which was directed against us.

As I pointed out, the Pharisees, being the religious leaders of their nation, should have been the first to recognize that Jesus was the Messiah, but instead they rejected him and persecuted him.

What should our response be to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is both David's son and the David's Lord? We should:

1. Worship him.

Like Thomas, we should fall down and declare, "My Lord and my God."

2. Serve him.

We should serve him all the days of our lives, offering our lives a living sacrifice.

3. Proclaim him.

Proclaim to those whom we come in contact with of this great Son and Lord of King David's – He who is the only Savior from sin in the history of the world, and urge others to also come to him in worship and service.

-Pastor Jeff Gregory, 12/8/21
Good Shepherd Church
Dallas, Texas
U.S.A.