

THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL TODAY

January 2, 2016

Chris Katulka, Psalm 110: Sit at My Right Hand

Hello dear friends, welcome to a new year... 2016. I hope you had a wonderful New Years... I pray that as you enter 2016 with all of your resolutions you'll stay determined and disciplined to keep what you promised to yourself. I'll tell you my New Year's resolution is probably not that far off from what the rest of the country is doing... and that's to lose a few pounds. So we'll see how long that lasts until I cave to the pressures of the leftover Christmas candies and snacks sitting around the office here...

Ok well enough about my new year's resolution...

You know when I was a kid growing up in church I always heard the phrase... "Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father." As a child, you know you learn these things, you say these things in Sunday school and youth group... I would immediately try to envision what "sitting at the right hand of the Father" looked like... so in my childhood imagination I would see God the Father with His right hand out, so imagine He has his right hand out... and His palm is up, and God the Father is huge, and sitting on this massive right hand was Jesus. So Jesus is literally sitting on the right hand of

the father. See sometimes you can be a little too literal with the Bible.

As a child I had no idea what sitting at the right hand of the Father meant... but this phrase is a truth that is foundational to our faith. Listen to what Paul says in Roman 8:34, “It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

So Paul is teaching in the book of Romans that the Messiah, Jesus... who died and resurrected is now seated at the right hand of the Father. This phrase... does not mean Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God... instead, it means Jesus at His resurrection has been given authority and power!

What I think is so awesome is that foundational belief wasn't concocted by Jesus after He resurrected from the dead. Instead, the concept of sitting at the right hand of the Father goes way back to a prophetic promise that was made by King David in Psalm 110.

Listen to the first few verses here of Psalm 110, “The LORD said to my Lord,

“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

Now, check this out... this is a prophetic oracle in the Psalms...
“The LORD said to my Lord.” Because of the way that we translate the name of God as LORD... the verse sounds really confusing. But if you look closely at your Bible in the Old Testament you’ll see that one LORD is in a capitals and the other is spelled normally with a capital L and lower case o-r-d. These are two different words in the Hebrew. David is actually writing saying this... “Yahweh said to my master.” Yahweh is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... and the Lord or master is the King of Israel. We know that Ps 110 is a verse that was meaningful for both the Kings of ancient Israel in the past and prophetically looking ahead to the future coming of Christ. We know it’s prophetic because when it says The LORD said to my Lord... the word “said” that’s used here in Hebrew is often used for prophetic statements by God!

So here we see that God is talking to the King of Israel... His servant.

I want to stop here for a moment because I think that it’s important to see this here in Psalms. You know there are a lot of things we know about King David’s life... in fact some of us might even say today TMI... too much information. Yet despite King David’s greatness and his abysmal failures... God still loved and valued David... He called Him a man after God’s own heart. I believe the beginning to Psalm 110 gives one of the reasons why God valued

David so much. See it says Yahweh said to my master or my lord. King David understood His position in God's plan. He understood that the King of Israel was not really the true king of Israel... He was merely Yahweh's representative on earth pointing God's people to the true King... and that is Yahweh... the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Himself. I believe the reason most of the kings of Israel and Judah failed miserably was because they forgot their position in God's plan... they thought too highly of themselves... they considered themselves the end all be all... the ONLY King of Israel... and that attitude would lead to their demise.

In this Psalm though, the True King of Israel is invited by God Himself to come and sit at His right hand... not on it... but at it. This phrase shows that this prophetic psalm is envisioning is a King who is invited to be Yahweh's representative... that Yahweh God gives the King the authority and permission to rule.

When Jesus died and resurrected He was invited by Yahweh, the God of Heaven and Earth to come and sit at His right hand as Psalm 110 revealed... showing that Jesus Christ has all authority and power and strength given to Him... He is sovereignly in control of everything. To sit at the right hand of the Father is be endowed with His authority.

The beautiful thing about Christ is that while He ministered here on Earth He understood His position in God's plan. He knew His job was to point people to the Father and to reveal the will of the Father, and to connect people to the Father... and He did this through His life, death, and resurrection. He understood His position as the King of Israel, and God exalted Him for that.

Next week we're going to look more at this very prophetic psalm... Psalm 110. But, it was important for me to start with you here to share the meaning behind the verse... "The LORD said to my Lord... sit at my right hand" because later the apostle Peter will use this verse as an argument that Jesus Christ... the Son of God and the Son of David, is exalted and sitting at the right hand of the Father today!

You know I believe we need to be reminded that Jesus our King is still in control, and that He is sovereignly ruling from the right hand of the Father! We need that reminder because with all that's happening in the world we can lose sight of Jesus... the author and perfecter of our faith... and when we lose sight of Jesus fear can grip us. The fear of losing our way of life, the fear of losing money, the fear of losing loved ones. Yet, when we stop and remember that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father with complete knowledge of the events happening around the world... and as we

will see next week from Ps 110... Jesus will return... He is coming back to take make all things new... so we have no reason to fear.