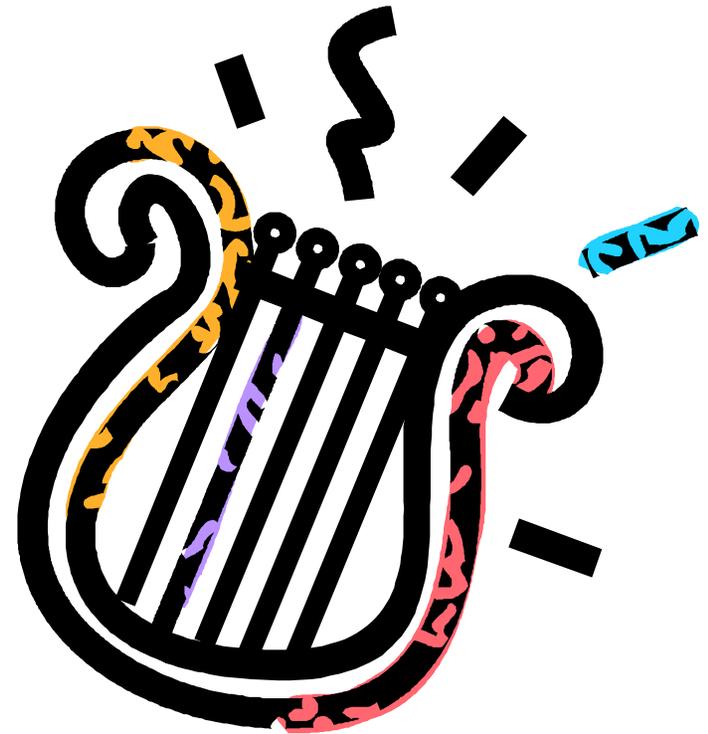


The Psalms in the New Testament

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Introduction

- The Psalms are the hymn book of the OT people of God, and they were also heavily used in the early Church.
- Here we give a survey of the various OT Psalms used in the NT.



Some Statistics

- The book of Psalms makes up only about 10% of the OT by length.
- However, about 25% of the OT quotations in the NT come from the Psalms, more than any other OT book.
- According to the UBS Greek NT (3rd ed.), there are:
 - 79 quotations from Psalms in NT
 - 335 allusions or verbal parallels



More Statistics

- The NT has quotations from 39 different Psalms:
 - Ps 118 most frequent (12x)
 - Then Ps 110 (11x)
 - Ps 69 (5x)
 - Pss 2, 22, 95 (4x each)
- Quotations in 11 NT books:
 - Most in Hebrews (17x)
 - Then Romans (14x)
 - Then Acts (11x)



Still More Statistics

- Allusions from 96 Psalms:
 - Ps 22 most frequent (20x)
 - Then Pss 2, 69, 110 (14x each)
- These allusions occur in 23 NT books:
 - Most in Revelation (98x)
 - Then Luke (39x)
 - Matthew (28x)
 - Acts (26x)
 - Hebrews (23x)



An Overview of Our Talk

- We want to look briefly at those places which are quoted in the NT.
- We can categorize these quotations:
 - Fulfillment
 - Confirmation
 - Exhortation
 - Exegesis
 - Biblical Language
 - Puzzling



Overview

- Fulfillment (~30x) – predicts events future to the psalmist
- Confirmation (~25x) – used to validate a theological point
- Exhortation (~4x) – used to motivate proper action
- Exegesis (~3x) – an extended discussion explaining the OT passage
- Biblical language (~2x) – language is used differently than in OT
- Puzzling (~3x) – not obvious why passage is used as it is



A Tour of The Various Kinds of Quotations



Fulfillment

Psalms used to show that something is a fulfillment of OT prophecy



Fulfillment

- Fulfilled – by time NT writer uses the passage
- Generic – predicting a class of future events
- Interpretive – additional revelation is given re/ fulfillment
- Future – still to be fulfilled when NT writer or speaker uses passage



Fulfilled Prophecy

Psalm has been fulfilled by time NT
writer uses passage



Psalm 16:8-11 in Acts 2

- 8 (NIV) I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.
- Quoted by Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:25-31) as fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus.



Psalm 16:10 in Acts 13

- 10 (NIV) because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
- Quoted by Paul also at Pisidian Antioch as fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus.



Psalm 22:1 in Matt 27 & Mark 14

- 1 (NIV) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- Jesus' words from the cross, noted as fulfilled by Matthew & Mark.



Psalm 22:18 in John 19

- 18 (NIV) They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.
- John reports that this was fulfilled during Jesus' crucifixion.



Psalm 40:6-8 in Hebrews 10

- 6 (NIV) Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. 7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. 8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."
- Christ is seen as the fulfillment here, the replacement for animal sacrifice.



Psalm 110:1 in Acts 2

- 1 (NIV) The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
- Peter applies this to Jesus in his sermon in the temple at Pentecost.



Psalm 118:22-23 in Acts 4, 1 Peter 2

- 22 (NIV) The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- Peter applies this to Jesus in regard to his rejection by the Jewish leadership.



Psalm 118:25-26 in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19 and John 12

- 25 (NIV) O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.
- The shouting of the crowds re/ Jesus at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



Generic Fulfillment

Psalm is predicting a class of events rather than one single fulfillment



Psalm 2:1-2 in Acts 4

- 1 (NIV) Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.
- Applied by believers to the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.



Psalm 8:2 in Matthew 21

- 2 (NIV) From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
- Applied by Jesus to the behavior of the crowds at his triumphal entry.



Psalm 22:22 in Hebrews 2

- 22 (NIV) I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.
- Applied to Jesus by author of Hebrews when he notes that Jesus is not ashamed to call believers his brothers.



Psalm 31:5 in Luke 23

- 5 (NIV) Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.
- Spoken by Jesus on the cross.



Psalm 35:19 in John 15

- 19 (NIV) Let not those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; let not those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye.
- Jesus applies this to himself.



Psalm 41:9 in John 13

- 9 (NIV) Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.
- Jesus applies this to Judas.



Psalm 44:22 in Romans 8

- 22 (NIV) Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.
- Paul applies this to the persecution of God's people.



Psalm 69:4 in John 15

- 4 (NIV) Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.
- Jesus applies this to himself.



Psalm 69:6 in John 2

- 9 (NIV) for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
- Disciples apply 1st half of this verse to Jesus at early cleansing of temple.



Psalm 69:6 in Romans 15

- 9 (NIV) for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
- Paul applies 2nd half of verse to Jesus.



Psalm 69:22-23 in Romans 11

- 22 (NIV) May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap. 23 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.
- Paul applies this to the Jews for rejecting Jesus.



Psalm 69:25 in Acts 1

- 25 (NIV) May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents.
- Peter applies this to Judas as a consequence of his betraying Jesus.



Psalm 78:2 in Matthew 13

- 2 (NIV) I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old...
- Matthew applies this to Jesus speaking in parables.



Psalm 109:8 in Acts 1

- 8 (NIV) May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.
- Peter applies this to Judas as a result of his betraying Jesus, and pointing to need for a replacement as apostle.



Psalm 112:9 in 2 Corinthians 9

- 9 (NIV) He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.
- Paul notes that God has given gifts to believers in order for them to share with the needy.



Interpretive Prophecy

The NT writer uses a Psalm, but gives additional revelation re/ its fulfillment



Psalm 2:7 in Acts 13

- 7 (NIV) I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."
- Paul says that this passage is fulfilled when Jesus is raised from the dead.



Psalm 2:7 in Hebrews 1

- 7 (NIV) I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."
- The author of Hebrews says that God spoke this to Jesus, time unspecified.



Psalm 2:7 in Hebrews 5

- 7 (NIV) I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."
- The author of Hebrews says that God spoke this to Jesus in appointing him as high priest.



Psalm 132:11 in Acts 2

- 11 (NIV) The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne..."
- Peter says David knew this in predicting the resurrection of the Messiah.



Future Prophecy

Psalm is still to be fulfilled when the NT writer or speaker is speaking



Psalm 8:4-6 in Hebrews 2

- 4 (NIV) ...what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.
- Author of Hebrews applies this to Jesus as accomplishing this for us.



Psalm 8:6 in 1 Corinthians 15

- 6 (NIV) You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.
- Paul applies this to Jesus following his 2nd coming to earth.



Psalm 110:1 in Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22

- 1 (NIV) The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
- Jesus claims at his trial before the Sanhedrin that this will soon apply to him.



Psalm 118:22-23 in Matthew 21, Mark 12 and Luke 20

- 22 (NIV) The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; 23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- Jesus applies this to himself at the end of the Parable of the Tenants.



Psalm 118:25-26 in Matthew 23 and Luke 13

- 25 (NIV) O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.
- Jesus uses this passage in calling upon the Jews to repent, predicting they will not say this until he comes back again.



Confirmation

Psalm is used to validate a theological point



Psalm 19:4 in Romans 10

- 4 (NIV) Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
- Paul cites this verse, and asks "Did they not hear?" and answers "Yes!"



Psalm 22:22 in Hebrews 2

- 22 (NIV) I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.
- Author of Hebrews notes that Jesus is not ashamed to call believers his brothers.



Psalm 24:1 in 1 Corinthians 10

- 1 (NIV) The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
- Paul uses this verse to justify eating food sold in the marketplace.



Psalm 32:1-2 in Romans 4

- 1 (NIV) Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- Paul uses this passage to argue for God's grace over against human works as the source of human blessing.



Psalm 44:22 in Romans 8

- 22 (NIV) Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.
- Paul uses this verse to support his contention that persecution will be frequent.



Psalm 45:6-7 in Hebrews 1

- 6 (NIV) Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- The author of Hebrews notes that this implies Jesus' deity.



Psalm 51:4 in Romans 3

- 4 (NIV) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
- Paul uses this verse to note that God will be vindicated in the judgment.



Psalm 78:24 in John 6

- 24 (NIV) he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.
- The Jews cites the passage to illustrate the miraculous work of Moses in the wilderness.



Psalm 82:6 in John 10

- 6 (NIV) I said, "You are 'gods'; you are all sons of the Most High." 7 But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler."
- Jesus cites this passage to show that there are some circumstances in which men may be called gods.



Psalm 91:11-12 in Matthew 4 and Luke 4

- 11 (NIV) For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- Satan cites these verses in tempting Jesus to jump from the temple.



Psalm 95:7-11 in Hebrews 3 & 4

- 7 (NIV) ... Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."
- Author of Hebrews exegetes this passage as a part of his exhortation.



Psalm 104:4 in Hebrews 1

- 4 (NIV) He makes winds his messengers, {[4] Or angels} flames of fire his servants.
- Author of Hebrews illustrates inferiority of a mere angel (messenger) to the Son.



Psalm 110:1 in Matthew 22, Mark 12, Luke 20

- 1 (NIV) The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
- Jesus cites verse to illustrate the dignity of the Messiah.



Psalm 110:4 in Hebrews 5 & 7

- 4 (NIV) The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."
- Cited in Heb 5:6 and applied to Jesus
- In Heb 7:7 emphasizing that he is a priest forever
- In Heb 7:21 that he is a priest by God's oath



Catenas (a special case)

A string of quotations are used to verify the author's statement



Romans 3:10-15

- Using Psalms 5:9, 10:7, 14:1-3, 36:1, 53:1-3, and 140:3...
- plus Ecclesiastes & Isaiah,
- ...to make Paul's point about the universal sinfulness of mankind.



Romans 15:9-12

- Using Psalm 18:49 and 117:1...
- plus 2 Samuel, Deuteronomy, Isaiah,
- ...to make Paul's point that the Gentiles will praise God.



1 Corinthians 3:19-20

- Using Psalm 94:11 and Job 5:13
- ...to make Paul's point re/ God's wisdom far surpassing human wisdom.



Exhortation

Psalms are used to motivate proper action.



Psalm 4:4 in Ephesians 4

- 4 (NIV) In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
- Paul is exhorting believers to handle their anger properly.



Psalm 34:12-16 in 1 Peter 3

- 12 (NIV) Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 the face of the LORD is against those who do evil...
- Peter is exhorting his readers to holy living.



Psalm 95:7-11 in Hebrews 3 & 4

- 7 (NIV) ... Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."
- The author of Hebrews is warning his readers about the danger of apostasy.



Psalm 118:6 in Hebrews 13

- 6 (NIV) The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- The author of Hebrews is exhorting his readers to contentment in view of God's presence & power.



Exegesis

A Psalm passage is being exegeted by the author.



Psalm 40:6-8 in Hebrews 10

- 6 (NIV) Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced{[6] Septuagint but a body you have prepared for me}; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. 7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. 8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."
- Author is arguing that Christ is the real sacrifice that animal offerings foreshadowed.



Psalm 95:7-11 in Hebrews 3 & 4

- 7 (NIV) ... Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."
- An exegetical exhortation on the danger of apostasy



Psalm 110:1-4 in Hebrews 7

- 1 (NIV) The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." 2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."
- Author is arguing that Jesus is the predicted king-forever.



Biblical Language

Psalm is used in a different way,
apparently for its language.



Psalm 89:20 in Acts 13

- 20 (NIV) I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- If this is the place Paul is quoting, it appears that he is only using the language of the passage.
- The phenomenon appears to be more common in allusions than quotations.



Puzzling Cases

Not obvious why the passage is used
as it is



Psalm 68:18 in Ephesians 4

- 18 (NIV) When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from {[18] Or gifts for men, even} the rebellious—that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.
- Applied to Christ giving gifts to men, but the Hebrew *b* (ב) looks more like "by" or "with" men than "from" them.



Psalm 102:25-27 in Hebrews 1

- 25 (NIV) In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. 27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.
- On what basis does the author apply this to Jesus? Does he assume his readers accept the Deity & creatorhood of Jesus?



Psalm 116:10 in 2 Corinthians 4

- 10 (NIV) I believed; therefore {[10] Or believed even when}I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
- Paul is speaking about the afflictions he has experienced, but the connection is puzzling.
- Is this an example of using Biblical language in a different sense?



Summary



The Most Frequently Quoted Psalms

- Psalm 118 (12x) – a Messianic psalm re/ Jesus' rejection and (2nd) coming
- Psalm 110 (11x) – a Messianic psalm re/ Jesus combining kingship and priesthood
- Psalm 69 (5x) – a more generic psalm that fits Jesus' rejection and vindication.



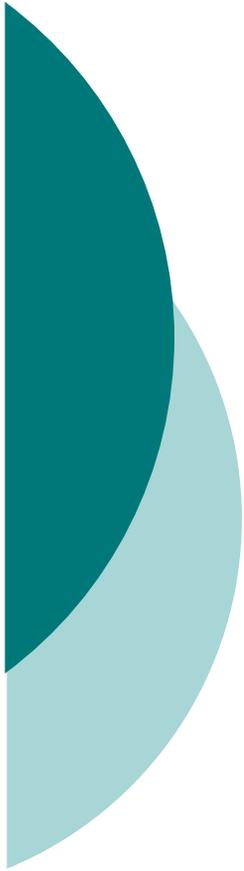
The Most Frequently Quoted Psalms

- Psalm 2 (4x) – rebellion of mankind against God and his Messiah
- Psalm 22 (4x) – the crucifixion of the Messiah
- Psalm 95 (4x) – lessons from Israel in the wilderness
- Note that most of these are Messianic psalms.

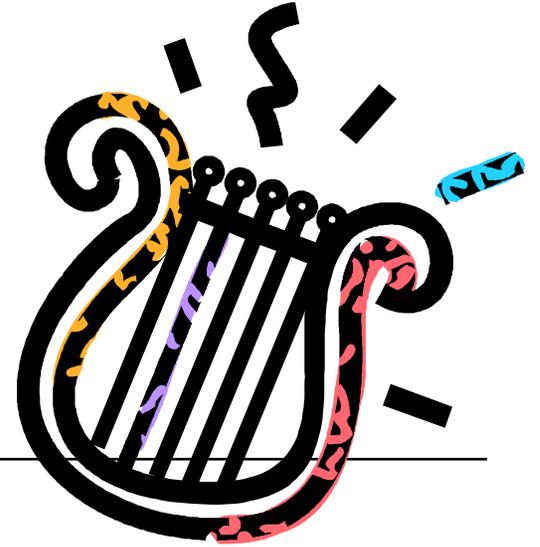


For Further Discussion

- Psalm 2 – see PP talk "What is History All About?"
- Psalm 22 – see PP talk "They Saw Jesus, Centuries in Advance"
- Psalm 110 – see PP talk "Jesus, the Testimony of Prophecy & History"



The End



Luke 24:44 (NIV) He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.