

Sermon Guide: Messiah | Samuel Voo | Nov. 26

In this sermon, Sam explores the ancient word “Messiah,” concluding the sermon series called “Ancient Words”. He explores especially the twin aspects of Messiahship as, first, of all, a close and intimate relationship with God as one chosen by God, and secondly, as someone who is a part of God’s greater story in the world.

The term “mashiach” means the anointed one, and comes from the verb “to anoint.” The significance of anointing with oil in the ancient Jewish world included being used as a sign for blessing, consecration, and being set apart for divine tasks. As the Old Testament progresses, however, the Messiah became increasingly associated with the anointing of kings, and in particular, especially one king in particular, King David.

Sam also speaks about how believers are invited, in a similar way, both into a personal relationship with God through Jesus, but also how we, too, are invited into this relationship not only for our own sake, but as part of the larger story involving the church, which is an expression of God’s kingdom.

Sam draws especially on Psalm 2, which, along with Psalm 1, serves as an introduction to the entire book of the Psalms. This is important since the theme of messiahship is present not only in this Psalm but frames the entire collection of all the Psalms and informed the early church’s reading of them. Just as how in Psalm 2, there are nations opposed to God, there remain forces and powers today who do not recognize God’s sovereignty. Rather than being discouraged by the broken state of the world in which we live, or by the challenging circumstances in our lives, when we find our place in God’s story through Jesus, we are given hope and enabled to live by faith in the midst of all our circumstances.

Key Takeaways:

- The believer's relationship with God through Jesus is an invitation to participate in a great story that transcends personal spirituality and encompasses the church, community, and the unfolding of God's Kingdom. This perspective challenges believers to look beyond their individual experiences and consider their role in the broader mission of God's work in the world. [\[25:58\]](#)
- Psalm 2 provides a vivid depiction of the tension between earthly powers and God’s sovereignty, illustrating that God is above all powers and kingdoms. The psalmist's assurance of God's sovereignty serves as a reminder that believers can trust in God's ultimate control over history and the establishment of His purposes, despite apparent chaos and resistance. [\[15:34\]](#)
- The dual aspects of David's messiahship—his personal communion with God and his public role as King—mirror the Christian's call to nurture a deep, individual relationship with God while also engaging in the collective mission of the church. This dual calling invites believers to live out their faith in both private devotion and public witness. [\[22:10\]](#)

Bible Reading

1. Psalm 2

"Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, 'Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 'I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.' ... Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him."

2. Psalm 51:4

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge."

3. Psalm 139

"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

Discussion Questions

1. How does Psalm 2 describe the relationship between God, His anointed, and the nations of the world?
2. How do Psalm 1 and 2 form an introduction to the entire book of the Psalms, and why might this be significant?
3. In light of Psalm 2, what implications does the sovereignty of God's anointed have for the way people and nations conduct themselves?

Going Deeper

1. Reflect on the nature of your own relationship to God and to his larger story. What roles might you be called to contribute to in God's story? Speak in particular to your role in the church community of which you are a part.
2. On the dual dimensions of 1) our relationship with God and 2) our part in his larger story with his people, how might you practically strengthen or come to deeper commitment in that area?
3. Identify an issue (globally, local, or personally) where you see opposition to God and the challenge of the situation. How can you live out of a place of hope and faith rather than of despair and discouragement?