

DAVID'S LORD

In a prophetic psalm, king David makes a remarkable statement concerning his Lord. He says, “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Psalm 110.1).¹ So to speak, David falls down and pays homage to the One who stands before him. In a New Testament passage (Matthew 22.41-45; cf. Luke 12.35-37), Jesus points out to the Pharisees the implication of David addressing King Messiah as “my Lord.” Christ is greater than David, even divine. This latter fact is attested by the power and authority conferred on Messiah by Yahweh: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” With these words, New Testament writers affirm the deity of Jesus.²

Not only is Jesus greater than David (Acts 2.34), he is greater than the angels, for “to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Hebrews 1.13). Jesus received this honor at the completion of his priestly work on earth, for when he “had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10.12). Thus God glorified the One who had been rejected by humans.

Even now, Jesus is “at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Romans 8.34). Here he rules (1 Corinthians 15.25), and here, at the right hand of the Father, “he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool” (Hebrews 10.13). So Psalm 110.1 shows us the divine nature of Jesus, the Messiah, his authority, and his work for us in the presence of the Father. He is King David’s Lord in the fullest sense. Is he our Lord, too?

¹Scripture quotations are from *New International Version: Spirit of the Reformation Bible*, General Editor, Richard Pratt (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).

²Note that the Jewish Sanhedrin considered the words of Jesus in Mark 14.62, “and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven,” descriptive of deity, and charged Jesus with blasphemy (verse 64; cf. Acts 7.55f.).