

# Psalms 110:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.

## Analysis

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This verse expands the imagery of judgment to include complete conquest and filling the earth. 'He shall judge among the heathen' presents the Messiah exercising judgment on a cosmic scale - not just against individual enemies but among all peoples and nations. 'Heathen' (Hebrew 'goyim') refers to non-Israelite peoples, indicating universal scope. 'He shall fill the places with the dead bodies' employs stark, graphic language depicting comprehensive victory. The accumulation of corpses indicates the magnitude and decisiveness of judgment - enemies are not merely defeated but utterly destroyed. Some interpreters view this as hyperbolic apocalyptic language rather than literal description, emphasizing the totality of judgment. 'He shall wound the heads over many countries' suggests striking down leaders and rulers across multiple territories. The 'head' carries symbolic weight - destroying the head represents eliminating authority and leadership. This verse presents eschatological judgment affecting the entire earth, with all nations coming under the Messiah's authority either through willing submission or through judgment. The progression from verse 5 to verse 6 moves from striking individual kings to comprehensive global judgment.

## Historical Context

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The language of worldwide judgment and the Messiah's universal dominion aligns with other apocalyptic visions in Scripture. Daniel 7:13-14 describes the Son of Man receiving dominion 'over all people, nations, and languages.' Revelation 19:15

uses similar imagery: the Messiah with 'a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron.' The concept of the Messiah judging among the nations appears in Isaiah 2:4 (in the form of blessing and instruction) and Isaiah 42:1-4 (presenting the Messiah establishing justice). First-century expectations varied regarding whether the Messiah would exercise judgment through military conquest, through divine power, or through the Word. Psalm 110:6 provided scriptural basis for both judgment and redemptive themes - the complete subduing of enemies and the establishment of God's righteous reign. Christian interpreters applied this to both the ultimate future judgment and to Christ's present spiritual reign over the church and world. The filling of 'places with dead bodies' proved controversial for pacifist Christian traditions, which emphasized the spiritual rather than literal nature of warfare in Christ's kingdom.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean for the Messiah to 'judge among the heathen' on a universal scale, and how does this relate to His role as judge of all humanity?
2. How should we understand the graphic imagery of 'dead bodies' filling places - as literal description, apocalyptic symbolism, or theological statement?
3. In what way does wounding 'the heads over many countries' represent the destruction of worldly authority in contrast to Christ's reign?
4. How do verses describing the Messiah's judgment relate to the gospel's message of salvation and redemption?
5. What is the theological significance of the Messiah's reign being universal and all-encompassing rather than limited to one nation or territory?

## Interlinear Text

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He shall judge	among the heathen	he shall fill	the places with the dead bodies
H1777	H1471	H4390	H1472
מִחַץ	רֹאשׁ	אֶרֶץ	רַבָּה:
he shall wound	the heads	countries	over many
H4272	H7218	H776	H7227

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 68:21** (Parallel theme): But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses.

**Isaiah 2:4** (Judgment): And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**Micah 4:3** (Judgment): And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**Revelation 14:20** (Parallel theme): And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

**Revelation 19:11** (Judgment): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

**John 5:22** (Judgment): For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: