

Psalms 110:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

Analysis

This concluding verse presents the Messiah's final vindication and exaltation. 'He shall drink of the brook in the way' employs humble imagery - refreshing Himself from a small brook during a journey. This picture of humiliation and human need contrasts with the cosmic judgment just described. The metaphor suggests the Messiah experiences real weakness, thirst, and vulnerability in His earthly journey. Yet despite these apparent limitations and reproaches, 'therefore shall he lift up his head' - He shall be exalted. The lifting of the head signifies recovery of honor, dignity, and authority after humiliation. This phrase encapsulates the complete arc of the Messiah's work: humiliation followed by exaltation. It echoes Isaiah 52:13-53:12, which similarly progresses from suffering and despise to exaltation and glory. The final clause completes the psalm's central theme: the Messiah's apparent defeat becomes the means of His ultimate triumph. His willingness to drink from the brook while traveling demonstrates His identification with human experience and struggle. Yet His lifting up of the head represents vindication, resurrection, and the beginning of His reign. The verse thus provides theological explanation for the apparent contradiction between Jesus' crucifixion and His exaltation - suffering precedes glory; humiliation becomes the pathway to exaltation.

Historical Context

The phrase 'He shall drink of the brook in the way' has multiple interpretive traditions. Some commentators view it as literal - the Messiah refreshing Himself

during battle or journey. Others see it as figurative of the Messiah's humiliation and identification with human weakness. The connection to Isaiah's suffering servant became prominent in Christian interpretation. Early Christians recognized that Jesus' earthly ministry involved suffering, rejection, and death - the 'drinking of the brook' of humiliation. His resurrection and ascension represented 'lifting up his head' - vindication and exaltation. This interpretation proved crucial in addressing the 'Messiah problem': first-century Jews expected a triumphant warrior-king, not a crucified rabbi. Psalm 110, read as a complete unit, reconciled these expectations. It revealed a Messiah who would be humiliated, judged guilty, even executed, yet would be exalted and would execute final judgment. The 'therefore shall he lift up his head' became the Christian explanation for Christ's resurrection. Medieval and Reformation theologians noted that the psalm moves from exaltation (verse 1) through humiliation (verse 7) back to exaltation, suggesting the Messiah's complete historical trajectory. The humility of 'drinking from the brook' anticipates the humiliation of the cross, while 'lifting up his head' anticipates the resurrection and eternal reign.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What is the theological significance of the Messiah drinking from a brook, and how does this humble imagery relate to His divine kingship?
2. How does this verse reconcile the apparent contradiction between the Messiah's humiliation and His exaltation described throughout the psalm?
3. In what ways does 'therefore shall he lift up his head' provide explanation and hope for believers facing suffering and apparent defeat?
4. What does the drinking of the brook suggest about the Messiah's full participation in human experience, and why is this important theologically?
5. How does this concluding verse leave the reader and the Messiah's future status - triumphant, waiting, or actively reigning?

Interlinear Text

מִן הַנָּחַל	בַּדֶּךָ	יִשְׁתֶּה ה	עַל	כִּי	יָרִים
of the brook	in the way	He shall drink	H5921	H3651	therefore shall he lift up
H5158	H1870	H8354			H7311
:רֹאשׁ:					
the head					
H7218					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:6 (Parallel theme): And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Matthew 26:42 (Parallel theme): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.