

Luke 13:31-35 “How sweet the sound of Jesus’ name...”. 28.02.21

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’

(Ps 118:26; Luke 13:31-35)

Context (Ps 118)

- 1] Ps 118 was written after Jews had returned from exile in Babylon
- 2] It was sung as pilgrims for festivals went up to the rebuilt Temple
- 3] Psalms 113-118 are called the Hallel Psalms, praising God for the great deliverance from Egypt (*Hallel* = praise, *u* = to, *Yah* = The Lord). They sang 113 and 114 *before* the Passover meal and 115-118 *after* it.

Cf When they had sung a hymn (after Passover meal / Last Supper) they went out to the Mt of Olives (Matthew 26:30)

(Ps 118:26-29)

Context (Lk 13:31-35)

- 1] He is heading towards Jerusalem for the last time (9:51)
- 2] This is part of a section on the final judgement of God. (11:37ff)
- 3] He has just told them to enter by the narrow door – the first shall be last and the last first. (13:22)

(Luke 13:31-35)

Intro

‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’

Blessed is He – Who is **He** and what does **blessed** mean?

- 1] **He** - is the Christ (gk), Messiah (Heb)

a) the anointed one that was to come

cf All Scribes and Pharisees .. where the Christ was to be born?’ (Matt 2:4)

b) line of David but far greater

cf Jesus ‘David calls Him my Lord’? (Lk 20:44) ‘Great David’s greater son’

Do you treat Jesus as a very good man or as the supreme the Lord God?

- 2] **Blessed**, means ‘favoured, chosen one’

Cf at His baptism anticipating His sacrifice for the world, the father declares of Him, “You are my son in whom I am well pleased” (Lk 3:22)

Nb this in Jesus fulfilment means that He was the sinless, perfect one

Note - If you too are in Christ you too are blessed, were chosen before the foundations of the World (Eph 1:4)

- 3] What would the Messiah be like? – two strands in scripture

a) Triumphant King (e.g. Pss 2;7)

This was the regal, anointed deliverer who would subject the world to Israel. Our elder brother the Jew may share this view with the Christian.

b) Suffering servant (Pss 13;22;55;102)

The Jews would see this as referring to nation of Israel, as a whole. However, those who believe that 'Jesus is Lord' recognise this too as a revelation of the Messiah in the person of Jesus.

Blessed is He **who comes** – when will he come?

It is of note that there is a difference in Matthew and Luke of the use of this quote - '*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*' (Ps 118:26). Both quote it twice – once in the context of Palm Sunday and once in sections on the final judgement. However Luke also quotes it before, Palms Sunday (Lk 13:35) and Matthew after it.

1] Luke is anticipating the crux, literally, of the first coming of the Lord, as the suffering servant as Jesus is crucified.

2] Matthew however points us forward to the coming King

Nb *This infers that Luke's fulfilment is at the cross, - the suffering servant. Matthew's fulfilment being at the second coming of Christ – the Triumphant King*

*So blessed is **HE - the suffering servant and** blessed is the **triumphant King - who comes** in the name of the Lord*

Do we have that understanding of Jesus – suffering servant, tempted in every way as we are (Heb 4:15) who has promised He will all ways be with us (Matt 28:20)

‘.... in the name of the Lord’

1] Old Testament

a) call on **the name of the Lord** (Gen 4:26 ... 26:25)

b) commandment - You shall not take the **name of the Lord** God in vain (Ex 20:7)

c) distant countries heard about **the name of the Lord** (Jos9:9)

d) David comes to Goliath in **the name of the Lord** of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel (1 Sam 17:45)

e) Sing praises to **the name of the Lord**, the most high (Ps7:17)

nb Name is not merely an outward means of identification

Name stands for personal character, ability and status

Cf name the Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth (Is 40:28) He is compassionate, just, merciful, loving, unchanging etc., etc., = The name of the Lord.

2] New Testament

1) In the Gospels – the only use of ‘the name of the Lord’ by people is on Palm Sunday and all 4 Gospels record it (Mt 21:9; Mk 11:9; Lk 19:38; Jn12:13)

2) Post Pentecost – the name of the Lord is used but it is the name of the Lord – **Jesus!** (Acts 8:16; 19:17; 1 Cor 5:4; Col 3:17)

Whose name do you come in? Jesus? Are we not ambassador’s for Christ (2 Cor 5:20)

Nb This Jesus is the Lord God in human form, “Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of Men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:5-9)

Conclusion

1] Note - ‘The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now’

2] Be sure to acknowledge Jesus as Saviour from sin and death and welcome Him as the KING

Main Point When Jesus returns a second time, all will acknowledge that ‘He is Lord’.

Key verse I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’. (35b)