

The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 2 January 2022. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced, and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

The Healing King

Psalm 45:8

Over the last several weeks, we have been studying **Psalm 45**. In **Psalm 45**, we find a beautiful prophetic portrait of Jesus Christ as King, Bridegroom, Warrior, Messiah, and God! The pinnacle of the chapter is **verses 6-7**, where God the Father addresses his own Son, and calls Him “God”! He says, ***“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”*** Jesus of Nazareth is the *Messiah*--the Anointed One of God, and the King of kings!

In this psalm, we also find a portrait of the Messiah wearing garments that smell of myrrh, aloes, and cassia. As we saw last week, the myrrh and aloes in Christ’s garments remind us of His suffering and death. Though myrrh and aloes had many uses in Bible times, the most common use of these spices was embalment and burial. The very word “myrrh” was strongly associated with “death” in people’s minds. Myrrh and aloes thus remind us of the *cruel death* that Jesus bore for us on the cross, and of the myrrh-aloes mixture that adorned His body when He was placed in Joseph’s tomb. Ultimately, the myrrh and aloes remind us of **salvation**, because without Christ’s sacrificial death for us, there would have been no atonement for our sins!

How appropriate that Jesus’ garments smell of myrrh and aloes! He is the anointed King, and the saving King!

Psalm 45:6-8

This morning, we will examine the last of the three spices that perfume Christ’s garments--namely, **cassia**. Now, “cassia” is mentioned only three times in Scripture; nonetheless, it is a very important spice. Why is cassia so important? Because it was one of the main ingredients in the **holy anointing oil**.

Exodus 30:22-33

In the Old Testament, both priests and kings were anointed for service. The anointing oil that we just read about was used not only for the anointing of Temple furniture, and for the anointing of priests, but also for the anointing of some of Israel’s kings. Solomon, for example, was anointed king with the holy anointing oil from the Tabernacle (**1 Kings 1:39**). Though cassia certainly wasn’t the only ingredient of the anointing oil, it was the principal ingredient, along with myrrh. Myrrh and cassia made up 500 shekels’ weight of the anointing oil each.

What does cassia speak of, then? It speaks of the power and authority that Jesus possesses as both King and Priest. In **Zechariah 6:13**, the LORD said that the Messiah ***“shall sit and rule upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne.”*** The offices of King and High Priest are combined in the Person of Jesus Christ! This morning, we will examine the authority that Christ has as both King and Priest. The title of this message is ***The Healing King***.

What does cassia teach us? First of all, cassia reminds us that...

I. Jesus has the authority to save His people.

When the Son of God entered our world, not many of the Jewish people were looking for a King who would save them from their sins. Most of them were looking for a King who would save them from their flesh-and-blood enemies, the Romans.

Of course, there was nothing wrong with expecting deliverance from their enemies, because God promised, time and time again, that the Messiah *will* deliver Israel from their enemies. In **Isaiah 63:1**, Isaiah saw, in vision, the Messiah descending to earth at the Battle of Armageddon; and he exclaimed, ***“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”***

When Christ returns to earth to claim His throne one day, He *will* cut off all Israel’s enemies, and He *will* consume them in flaming fire, like the chaff on the summer threshingfloors. He will be King over all the earth; and under the protection of His righteous government, His servants will be able to serve and worship Him without fear. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied that Jesus will ***“grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”***

Yet, when Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream, he didn’t say that the Child in Mary’s womb would “save his people from *their enemies*”; rather, he said, ***“He shall save his people from their sins.”*** Before the people of Israel can enter the Kingdom, they must first be *saved from their sins*. This is why Jesus came the first time to earth--to deal with our sin problem!

Read Matthew 1:18-21.

What is man’s biggest enemy? It is sin (and death, which is the consequence of sin). Sin is far more serious than any flesh-and-blood enemy could ever be. Take Russia, for example. We are hearing much of their threats toward the West, of late. For ought we know, Russia may invade Ukraine and Poland tomorrow, and, from there, the heartland of Europe, and re-establish the old, tyrannical Soviet Empire. This would truly be the biggest international catastrophe since the end of WWII. Yet, even if this nightmare scenario were to unfold, it could not even begin to compare to the awful tyranny of sin in the heart of man. Flesh-and-blood enemies can kill the body; but they cannot separate the soul from God. Our sin, on the other hand, *has* separated our souls from God! This is why we need a Saviour. This is why Jesus came 2,000 years ago. He came not to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. He came to offer up His life as a perfect ransom for ours, so that we might be delivered from the penalty, power, and (one day) the very *presence* of sin!

As our King-Priest, Jesus has the authority to save us from our sins. The anointing oil, with its smell of cassia, is a token of that authority. As King, He will destroy Israel’s enemies one day; but as High Priest, He has already destroyed the greatest enemy of all--sin and death! As a High Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec, He had the authority and power to lay down His own life, and to be our *Sacrifice* for sin. As our High Priest, He has appeared ***“once in the end of the world...to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”*** (Hebrews 9:26). When you think of the cassia in Jesus’ garments, think of His power to save!

I would ask the question: “Have *you* experienced Jesus’ power to save?” Have you come to Jesus to receive His gift of salvation? Jesus came into the world to save sinners; and He is ready and willing to save anyone who will come unto God by Him. The Scripture says, ***“But***

as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Jesus has already paid sin’s price for you; you have simply to turn from your sin, and place your complete trust in what Jesus did for you on the cross!

Back in the mid-twentieth century, in Germany, there was a young woman who, in her teen years, was drawn into astrology, horoscopes, and spirit mediums, in her quest to find something real and substantial in her life. As a child, she had grown up in the cold, formal state “church”; but the Jesus whom she heard about in that “church” seemed vague, far-off, distant, and irrelevant to real life. As she delved deeper into the occult, she found that the spirits told her things about her past with eerie accuracy; and she was fascinated by it. As she allowed the evil spirits to control her life more and more, she sank lower and lower in iniquity—until she finally found herself cutting her own finger, and, in her own blood, writing the words, “I give to thee, O Satan, my heart, body, and soul.” By the age of 19, she was committing acts that were too vile to repeat. She was utterly demoralised, and out of control; and she didn’t know which way to turn.

Finally, in March of 1960, this lady’s horoscope forecasted that she would take her own life on 26 July of that same year. She lived in paralyzing fear of this approaching date, because she knew that the spirits meant business, and that they would make sure she followed through. On the night of 25 July, she wandered aimlessly through town, desperately searching for some way out. It was while she was wandering the streets that night that Christ, who is mighty to save, mercifully reached out to her. Her story goes thus:

“Beautiful music penetrated my troubled soul, and I was drawn toward a religious meeting being held in a large tent. Furtively, I entered the tent. The music ended, and the speaker, Leander Penner of the Greater Europe Mission, stood up. ‘Tonight I’m going to tell you about the wonderful power of the Gospel,’ he said.

I wanted to run, but I was drained of energy. In all my years of churchgoing, I had never heard of this Christ—a personal Saviour who had died for me personally. Oh, how I longed to break Satan’s hold.

‘Only Christ can break the power of Satan,’ the preacher said. He invited the hearers to come forward and confess Christ. I pushed myself to the front and asked, ‘Is there any hope for a sinner such as I? Preacher, if what you say is true, I want deliverance. Pray for me.’

The evangelist prayed, and then assured me that Christ could and would forgive the greatest of sinners, if only He is asked. ‘For him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out,’ he quoted from John 6:37.

But I couldn’t ask Christ for help. Each time I tried, I felt an invisible hand clutching my throat.”

The preacher advised her to go home, and promised her that they would have a special prayer meeting that evening, just for her. Early the next morning, she dialled the evangelist and pleaded, ‘Can you come right over? It’s a matter of life and death.’

When he arrived, she once again asked, “Does your Christ really have power over Satan?” He assured her that He did; and once again, he began to pray for her. As he prayed, the evil spirits caused the poor young woman to convulse and shake uncontrollably. Once again, the spirits choked her, and kept her from being able to utter words of repentance. She cried, “It’s no use, I can’t do it!” Penner’s response was, “*You* can’t; but Christ can.”

Penner prayed for another half hour; but finally, she found the power to throw herself on her knees, and to cry to God for deliverance, and salvation from her sins. Immediately, the spirits left, and she had the peace of Christ in her heart.¹

Jesus truly is mighty to save, my friends! There is no one who has sunk so low that Jesus cannot lift him out of the miry clay, and set his feet upon the Rock!

Now, what else does the anointing oil, with its smell of myrrh and cassia, indicate about the Lord Jesus? It reminds us that...

II. **Jesus has the authority to intercede for His people.**

Read Hebrews 7:23-25.

As this passage shows, you cannot separate Jesus’ power to save from His power to intercede. The two go hand-in-hand. Because Jesus is a *risen and living* High Priest, He is able to stand before the Father at all times, and to plead for us.

Countless times, we who are saved grieve the Lord by our frequent sins and failures; yet, Jesus is always there, at the throne of mercy. He presents His own blood on the heavenly mercy seat, and He presents His wounded hands and side, as the *proof* that we still belong to Him. It is because He ever liveth that He is able “*to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.*”

By the way, there was another special perfume which was used in the Temple; and this perfume also speaks of Jesus’ power to intercede for us. Let’s go back to **Exodus 30**, and see what the ingredients of this perfume were.

Read Exodus 30:34-38.

Just like the anointing oil, the incense that was burned on the altar was most holy. No imitation of this oil was to be made or used for any other purpose. Day and night, the sweet-smelling smoke of the incense ascended up from the altar in front of the mercy seat; and this smoke was a picture of *prayer*. On the one hand, it is a picture of *our* prayers; but even more importantly, it is a picture of *Christ’s* prayers for *us*!

We often fail to pray; and when we do pray, we often “*pray amiss,*” because we are blind-sided by our sinful lusts. Jesus, on the other hand, prays *continually* to the Father for us; and He prays righteous prayers. He is able to do this because He is the God-Man, and our eternal High Priest. He knows our failures, and He knows our deepest needs, long before we ourselves are aware of them.

¹ James Adair and Ted Miller, *We Found Our Way Out* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1971), pp. 107-113,

Should we be surprised, then, that the wise men brought gifts of gold, and myrrh, and **frankincense** to the young Jesus? Just like cassia, frankincense reminds us of Jesus' High-Priestly authority to intercede for us, because it was the main ingredient of the Temple incense.

Christian, how often do you go before the throne of grace? Jesus came out of the ivory palaces into our world of woe so that He might save us, and be our eternal Intercessor. Are you spending much time speaking with the Father, in the name of His Son Jesus? Or does your time with the Lord often go neglected? Is the throne room often void of your presence, because there are other things in your life that you consider to be more important than talking with the Lord? If so, let your heart be drawn close to Him today! The Bible says, ***“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”***

III. Jesus has the authority to heal His people.

Read Isaiah 53:4-5.

As our Sacrifice and our High Priest, Jesus has the power and authority to heal His people. The Apostle Peter made reference to **Isaiah 53:5** when he wrote, ***“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed”*** (1 Peter 2:24).

Now, what do these words ***“with his stripes we are healed”*** mean? Does it mean that we are guaranteed perfect physical health because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross? No, it doesn't! Isaiah is talking about the healing of *spiritual* infirmities. He is talking about healing from the destructive power of sin. Throughout Scripture, our sin is often compared to a deathly "sickness" or "infirmity." For example, in **Isaiah 1**, the Lord compared apostate Israel to a sick and dying person. As He described Israel He said, ***“The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”***

It was our *spiritual* infirmity--our sin--that was placed upon Christ as He hung on the cross. On the cross, Christ took upon Him not our *physical* sicknesses, but rather the *judgment for our sins*. Now, to be sure, physical sickness, which is one of the many *consequences* of sin, will one day be banished, when believers receive their new, glorified, immortal bodies. Physical death (which is the ultimate end of physical sickness) will be no more. All these wonderful promises concerning our physical bodies are part and parcel of the promise of salvation. None of this would have been possible if Christ had not taken our *sins* upon Him, and paid for them, and risen from the grave, conquering death.

Yet, to try to make this verse to mean that Christians are guaranteed physical healing during this lifetime is a gross misinterpretation of Scripture. It is also an insult to the many godly believers whom God wills to go through physical pain and sickness. The Lord has granted physical healing even to many *unsaved* people down through the years. Every lost person who was ever deathly sick, and who was healed by God, was restored to physical health by God's *mercy*. However, physical healing is no indication that one has received forgiveness of sins. What every soul needs is healing from the deathly “sickness” of sin.

Thank God, our High Priest is up to that job! Let's look at an example of Jesus' power to heal the sickness of sin.

Read Mark 2:1-12.

What was the greatest miracle that took place in Peter's house on this day? Was it the healing of the paralyzed man's body? No! It was the healing of his soul! The Bible doesn't directly tell us what was going on in the mind of the paralyzed man that day; but it is clear that in his heart, he was longing not only to be healed of his physical malady, but to have his sins forgiven. Jesus has that effect on people, you know! Many sinful souls, when in the presence of Jesus of Nazareth, became acutely aware of their own sinfulness, and of their need of forgiveness. Jesus knew what was going on in this man's heart. He saw that *faith* had sprung up in this man's heart--faith that Jesus is the Messiah, and the Saviour; and He was ready and willing to forgive the man of his sins. The man's paralysis may have been so extensive, that he couldn't even speak; yet, Jesus knew his spiritual need. Before the man could even verbally express the desire of his heart, Jesus said, "***Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.***"

Now, to most of the spectators, this probably didn't seem like any great miracle. "So Jesus forgave the man's sins. Big deal!" some probably thought. Others (the scribes, in particular) were enraged by this statement, because they knew that only God has the power to forgive sins. And you know what? They were right! God *is* the only One who has the power to forgive sins! That is the whole point of this miracle! By healing this man's *physical* sickness, Jesus proved that He is God--and that He thus has the power to heal people of their *sin-sickness*, as well.

We don't know of any high priests in Old Testament times who ever healed a person of a disease; but Jesus Christ, our true High Priest, has the power to heal not only physical sicknesses, but also our *sin-sickness*. In fact, the healing of physical sickness is often used as an illustration of the healing of the *spiritual* sickness of sin. Take the healing of lepers, for example. Let's see what God's provision was for those who were healed of leprosy.

Read Leviticus 14:1-8.

The book of **Leviticus** contains many instructions concerning ceremonial purifications for different physical conditions. So it is in **Leviticus 14**. In this passage, God told the priests what they were to do for those who had been cured of leprosy. Those who had been cured of leprosy were, first of all, to come to the priest to be inspected as to whether they *were*, in fact, cured of leprosy. (**Leviticus 13** gave detailed descriptions of leprosy, so that the priest could rightly determine whether someone had leprosy or not.) If a person *were* healed of leprosy, **Leviticus 14** gave instructions concerning the ceremony that the priest was to perform for the cured leper.

Now, obviously, this could happen only by a *miracle*. Leprosy was incurable, and deadly! For 1,400 years, no priest ever had to follow these instructions, because no Jew was ever healed of leprosy. The only exception was Miriam, the sister of Moses, who was struck with leprosy for her sin of murmuring, and was mercifully healed by God. Other than Miriam, the only other leper who was healed was Naaman, the captain of the host of Syria. However, Naaman was not required to go through this ritual, because he was not a Jew.

However, when Jesus came on the scene, it all changed. All of a sudden, the priests had to look up **Leviticus 14** again, to see what they had to do for these lepers whom Jesus was healing! Let's take a look at an example of a leper whom Jesus healed.

Read Luke 5:12-16.

Why did healed lepers have to go through these tedious ceremonies? Why did *this man*, whom Jesus healed, have to go to the local priest to have these things done? Why did a bird have to be killed? Why did the bird have to be killed over running water, in an earthen bowl? Why did a living bird have to be dipped in the dead bird's blood? And why did the leper have to be sprinkled with the dead bird's blood (using hyssop) and pronounced "clean"? Because it was all a picture of salvation!

In this illustration, **the leper** is a picture of a sinner, who has the incurable and deadly disease of sin. **The bird** that died and shed its blood is a picture of Christ. **The running water** which was mixed with the blood in the bowl is a picture of the Holy Spirit, who came to indwell believers after Christ's death and resurrection. **The bird that was dipped** in the dead bird's blood, and was set free, is a picture of the sinner who is cured of his sin by the blood of Jesus, and is set free. **The hyssop** that was used to sprinkle the leper is a picture of that sinner's *faith in Christ*. Just as hyssop was used to strike the blood on the doorposts of the Israelites' houses on Passover night, so the hyssop had to be used here to apply the blood to the leper. It is by **faith** that the blood of Christ is applied to the sinner.

If you have received God's gift of salvation by faith, then God has plunged you in the blood of His Son, and has set you free from sin! Not only has He saved you from the penalty of sin, but He also gives you power over sin in your daily Christian life. Christian, are you struggling with sin in your life? Is there a besetting sin that you can't seem to conquer? If so, I'm here to remind you that ***"the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"*** (1 John 1:7). Your King and High Priest, whose garments are dipped in cassia, is able to snatch you from the clutch of whatever sin is raging against your soul today. Has your life been ravaged by sinful decisions that you have made in your past? If so, the earthly consequences of some of those decisions may stay with you for the duration of this lifetime on earth; however, you can lay your head down on your pillow at night knowing that all is right between you and God. Jesus *can* heal your soul. He is Jehovah Rapha ("The LORD heals"); and He promises, ***"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."***

Conclusion: Jesus' garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia. These spices speak of a saving King, and a healing King. As both King and High Priest, He has the power to forgive sins, and to cleanse and make whole. Have *you* come to Him for healing? If there have never been a time when you asked Jesus, in simple faith, to forgive your sins and cleanse your heart, and to be your Lord and personal Saviour, I urge you to open your heart's door and let Him in today! Jesus said, ***"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*** Simply confess your sin, admit your need of Christ, and place your complete faith in the sacrifice that He made for you on the cross.

Perhaps you are saved, but you are struggling under the burden of a sin that you seemingly cannot conquer. In yourself, you *can't* conquer it; but in Christ, you can! However, the question always remains: ***"Wilt thou be made whole?"*** If you truly desire to find cleansing and victory, you have simply to ask Christ, in faith, at the moment of temptation; and His blood will give you victory. This is why He

left the ivory palaces--so that you might not only be saved, but also live a life of victory over sin! Let Him have His way with you today, Christian!