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THE PSALMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Some Statistics

About 25% of OT quotations in NT from Psalms, though book makes up only about 10% of OT in length

Acc to UBS *Greek New Testament* (3rd ed):

79 quotations of Pss in NT

335 allusions or verbal parallels to Pss in NT

Quotations from 39 different Pss:

118 and 110 most frequent (12x and 11x),

then Ps 69 (5x), Pss 2, 22, 95 (4x each)

Quotations in 11 NT books, most Heb (17), Rom (14), Acts (11)

Allusions from 96 different Pss,

Ps 22 most frequent (20x),

then Pss 2, 69, 110 (14x each)

Allusions in 23 NT books, most in Rev (98), Lk (39), Mt (28), Acts (26), Heb (23)

Types of Quotations

Fulfillment (c30x) - predicts events future to psalmist

Confirmation (c25x) - to validate theological point

Exhortation (c4x) - to motivate proper action

Exegesis (c3x) - extended discussion explaining

Biblical Language (1-2x?) - language used differently

Puzzling (c3x) - not obvious why passage used as it is

Some Details on Quotations

Fulfillment

Fulfilled by time NT writer uses passage

Ps 16:8-11 (not abandoned to decay) in Ac 2:25-31

Peter at Pentecost re/ Jesus

16:10 (ditto) in Ac 13:35

Paul at Pisidian Antioch re/ Jesus

22:1 (My God, my God...) in Mt 27:46 = Mk 14:24

Jesus' words from cross

22:18 (divide garments, cast lots) in Jn 19:24

occurred at Jesus' crucifixion

40:6-8 (sacrifice not desired) in Hb 10:5-7
Christ as replacement for animal offerings
110:1 (sit at right hand) in Ac 2:34-35
applied to Jesus by Peter at Pentecost
118:22-3 (stone builders rejected) in Ac 4:11, 1P 2:7
applied to Jesus by Peter
118:25-26 (blessed is He who comes) in Mt 21:9
=Mk 11:9-10 = Lk 19:38 = Jn 12:13
crowds re/ Jesus at triumphal entry

Generic: predicting a class of events

Ps 2:1-2 (why do nations rage?) in Ac 4:25-26
applied to trial & death of Jesus
8:2 (perfect praise from infants) in Mt 21:16
Jesus re/ his triumphal entry
22:22 (declare your name to brothers) in Hb 2:12
Jesus not ashamed to call believers "brothers"
31:5 (into hands commit spirit) in Lk 23:46
Jesus on cross
35:19 (hated me w/o cause) in Jn 15:25
Jesus applies to self
41:9 (even my close friend) in Jn 13:18
Jesus applies to Judas
44:22 (considered sheep for slaughter) in Rm 8:36
persecution of God's people
69:4 (hated me w/o cause) in Jn 15:25 (cp Ps 35:19)
Jesus applies to self
69:9 (zeal for house consumes me) in Jn 2:17
disciples apply to Jesus
69:9 (insults to You fall on me) in Rm 15:3
Paul applies to Jesus
69:22-3 (table become snare) in Rm 11:9-10
Paul applies to Jews
69:25 (place to be deserted) in Ac 1:20
Peter applies to Judas
78:2 (open mouth in parables) in Mt 13:35
Matthew applies to Jesus
109:8 (days be few, another take office) in Ac 1:20
Peter applies to Judas
112:9 (scattered gifts to poor) in 2C 9:9
believers have gifts to give to others

Interpretive: additional revelation re/ application

Ps 2:7 (you are My Son) in Ac 13:33
Paul says fulf by raising Jesus
2:7 (ditto) in Hb 1:5
God spoke to Jesus, time unspecified
2:7 (ditto) in Hb 5:5
God appointing Jesus to high priesthood
132:11 (LORD swore oath to David) Ac 2:30
Peter says David knew this in predicting resurrection of Messiah

Future: still to be fulfilled when spoken/written

8:4-6 (what is man?) in Hb 2:6-8
applied to Jesus as accomplishing this for us
8:6 (ditto) in 1C 15:27
applied to Jesus eschatologically
110:1 (sit at right hand) in Mt 26:64 = Mk 14:62 = Lk 22:69
Jesus' claim before Sanhedrin
118:22-3 (stone builders rejected) in Mt 21:42 = Mk 12:10-1 = Lk 20:17
Jesus applies to self at end Parable of Tenants
118:25-6 (blessed He who comes) in Mt 23:39 & Lk 13:35
Jesus calling on Jews to repent

Confirmation

Ps 19:4 (voice to all earth) in Rm 10:18
Did they not hear? Yes!
22:22 (declare your name) in Hb 2:12
Jesus not ashamed to call believers "brothers"
24:1 (earth is Lord's & all in it) in 1C 10:26
OK to eat food sold in marketplace
32:1-2 (blessed whose sins forgiven) in Rm 4:7-8
Paul arguing on grace vs works
44:22 (considered sheep for slaughter) in Rm 8:36
Persecution will be frequent
45:6-7 (Your throne, O God) in Hb 1:8-9
Applied to Jesus showing deity
51:4 (God proved right when judging) in Rm 3:4
Let God be true
78:24 (rained down manna) in Jn 6:31
Jews quoting re/ work of Moses
82:6 (you are gods) in Jn 10:34
Jesus in response to charge of blasphemy
91:11-12 (angels bear up) in Mt 4:6 = Lk 4:10-1
Satan in tempting Jesus to jump
95:7-11 (today if you will hear ... never enter rest)

in Heb 3:7-4:7 - exegesis as part of exhortation
104:4 (winds his messengers) in Hb 1:7
inferiority of angels to Son
110:1 (LORD says to my Lord) in Mt 22:44 = Mk 12:36 =
Lk 20:42-43 - Jesus re/ dignity of Messiah
110:4 (priest forever like Melch) in Hb 5:6
applied to Jesus
110:4 (ditto) in Hb 7:7
priest forever
110:4 (ditto) in Hb 7:21
priest by God's oath

Catenas: (special case) string of quotations

Rm 3:10-15 using Pss 5:9; 10:7; 14:1-3; 36:1; 53:1-3; 140:3, plus Eccl & Isa re/ universal sin of mankind
Rm 15:9-12 using Pss 18:49; 117:1, plus 2 Sam, Deut, Isa re/ Gentiles praising God
1C 3:19-20 using Ps 94:11 and Jb 5:13 re/ God's wisdom vs man's

Exhortation

Ps 4:4 (in anger do not sin) in Ep 4:25
Paul re/ handling one's anger
34:12-6 (whoever loves life) in 1P 3:10-2
Peter on holy living
95:7-11 (today if hear His voice) in Hb 3:7-4:7
Author of Heb re/ danger of apostasy
118:6 (LORD w/ me, not afraid) in Hb 13:6
Author of Heb re/ Lord's presence

Exegesis

Ps 40:6-8 (sacr & offering not desired) in Hb 10:5-7
Christ as real sacrifice that animal offerings foreshadowed
95:7-11 (today if hear His voice) in Hb 3:7-4:7
exegetical exhortation on danger of apostasy
110:1-4 (priest like Melchizedek) in Hb, esp chap 7
Jesus as king-priest forever

Biblical Language

89:20 (I have found David) in Ac 13:22
Paul in sermon (homiletical language?)
[this seems to be more common in allusions]

Puzzling Cases

- 68:18 (ascended, received gifts from men) in Ep 4:8
applied to Christ giving gifts to men [Hebrew *b* looks more like "by" or "with"
men than "from" men]
- 102:25-27 (heavens will perish, You remain) in Hb 1:10-2
on what basis applied to Jesus? [assumes readers accept Deity and Creatorhood
of Jesus?]
- 116:10 (I believed, so I said, I am greatly afflicted) in 2C 4:13
Paul app uses differently [Biblical language?]