

The Psalms:

“Zeal for Your House Has Consumed Me”

Having reached the life of David in our search for the King, we’re going to spend the next few weeks looking at several of the psalms. Where are they quoted in the New Testament? Why? How are they used by the

apostles and Gospel-writers? What’s the connection to Jesus? How do they help us see our own King more clearly and understand his mission and will for our lives?

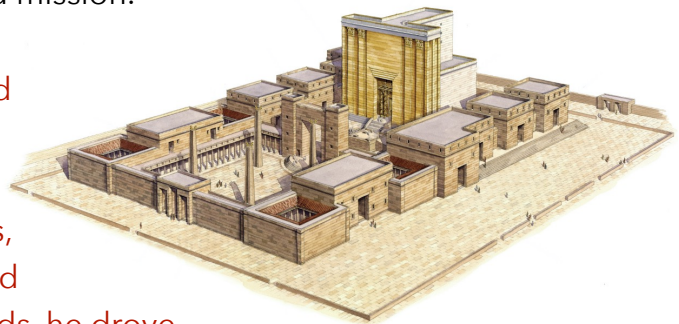
Psalm 69 describes a very difficult time in David’s life. “More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause,” he laments in **verse 4**. “Save me, O God,” is his plea from **verse 1**. But notice especially what he writes in **verse 9**:

For **zeal** for your **house** has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

That’s a really significant statement when we realize what happened a thousand years later, the connection that was drawn by Jesus’ own disciples *back to Psalm 69*, and what they believed it revealed about Jesus’ identity and mission.

John 2 tells us:

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the **temple** he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And



making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my **Father’s** house a house of trade.” His disciples **remembered** that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” (**John 2:13-17**)

What’s the connection? What does it have to do with our own search for our King?

Many times, words from the book of *Psalms* that Israel had sung for generations find their greatest fulfillment in Jesus. How? Remember what he said after his resurrection from the dead in **Luke 24:44**: “That everything written about him “in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the **Psalms**” might be fulfilled. How does Jesus fulfill **Psalm 69**? **Let’s talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

- What sort of things did David experience in life that led him to write poems like [Psalm 69](#)? Can you think of any specific examples?
- In your own words, what is “zeal”?
- How or why would “zeal” for God’s house “consume” anybody?
- In what way was his zeal “consuming” Jesus in [John 2](#)?
- What happened next, in [John 2:18-22](#)?
- In [Matthew 21](#), we find Jesus doing much the same thing *again*, toward the very end of his ministry. What pivotal difference do you notice in his language in [21:13](#)?
- What is our “Father’s house” today? Passages like [Ephesians 2:19](#), [1 Timothy 3:15](#), and [1 Peter 4:17](#) might be helpful. Is there any sense in which “zeal” ought to “consume” *us*?
- What should we make of the last line of [Psalm 69:9](#)? What does it mean?

For NEXT Sunday:

- Read and meditate on [Psalm 118](#). Jesus himself will quote [Psalm 118](#) in [Matthew 21:33-46](#). **Why?** What prompted Jesus to make that connection to a psalm from a thousand years before? And how does Peter make a connection for *us* in [1 Peter 2:1-10](#)?