Suggested Answers for Leaders

Observation — What does it say?

1. He occupies the place of supreme honor and authority (v. 1). God invites Him to sit at His right hand, the position of highest honor and shared authority.

   He exercises dominion over His enemies (vv. 1–2). God promises to make His enemies a footstool for His feet. His scepter, the symbol of royal authority, will extend from Zion as He rules.

   He leads a willing people (v. 3). His people freely offer themselves in the day of His power. He does not lack loyal subjects; they rally to His cause.

   He possesses enduring strength and vitality (v. 3). The imagery of the dew of the morning suggests freshness, abundance, and perhaps the innumerable character of His people. (The Hebrew here is particularly difficult.)

2. He is appointed by God's unchangeable oath. His priesthood is not something He assumes for Himself; God establishes it. He is a priest forever. Unlike the Levitical priests, whose service ended with death, His priesthood is permanent. He is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek. His priesthood is distinct from the Aaronic priesthood and combines kingly authority with priestly mediation. (This is developed extensively in Hebrews 5–7. Jesus is the perfect, permanent High Priest who can continually represent His people before God. If you haven't yet joined Pastor Dan's study of Hebrews, it's not too late!)

3. He executes judgment upon kings (v. 5). He brings down the rulers who oppose Him. He judges the nations (v. 6). His judgment is universal, extending throughout the earth. He defeats His enemies decisively (v. 6). He fills the places of conflict with the consequences of His judgment. He perseveres in His mission (v. 7). The picture of drinking from the brook along the way and lifting His head suggests a warrior who continues forward, refreshed and victorious. The emphasis is on the certainty and completeness of His triumph. No earthly ruler or nation can ultimately withstand Him.

Interpretation — What does it mean?

4. Both! Jesus is Lord and King now, but His universal reign will be fully manifested in the future. Several observations help us understand this: Jesus reigns now. Following His resurrection and ascension, He is seated at God's right hand (Acts 2:32–36; Ephesians 1:20–22; Hebrews 1:3). His enemies are not yet completely subdued. Although His authority is already established, opposition to His rule continues. His reign will ultimately be universally acknowledged. At His return, every enemy will be defeated, and every knee will bow (Philippians 2:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:24–26). This is an important biblical distinction: the kingdom is already inaugurated, but its consummation is still future. Jesus does not become King later. He is King now, and one day everyone and everything will acknowledge His kingship.

5. These passages reveal that believers will share in Christ's future reign and authority. 1 Corinthians 6:2–3 – We will judge the world and angels. Paul reminds believers that the saints will participate in judging the world and even angels. He uses this future responsibility to challenge them to exercise wisdom in resolving disputes now. Revelation 2:26–27 – We will share in Christ's authority over the nations. Those who overcome and remain faithful to Christ will receive authority over the nations and participate in His rule. The imagery of the iron rod emphasizes the strength and certainty of His victorious reign. Revelation 3:21 – We will reign with Christ. Jesus promises that the one who overcomes will sit with Him on His throne, just as He overcame and sat with His Father on His throne. The big picture: We are not merely spectators watching Jesus conquer His enemies. We will participate in His victorious reign. Those who willingly serve Him now will share in His glory and authority in the age to come. This is an extraordinary privilege, especially considering that our present service often involves suffering, humility, and perseverance.

Suggested Answers for Leaders

6. We need a King because we need someone to rule over us. We are not naturally wise or competent to govern our own lives. We need His authority, direction, protection, and provision. We need to submit to His rule rather than insist on our own. We need a Priest because we are sinful and cannot approach a holy God on our own merits. We need someone to represent us before God, provide atonement for our sins, and continually intercede for us. Jesus is our perfect and permanent High Priest. We need a Warrior because we have enemies we cannot defeat ourselves. Sin, Satan, death, and the forces opposed to God are beyond our ability to overcome. We need a mighty Deliverer who fights for us and ultimately conquers every enemy. Jesus meets our deepest needs: As King, He rules us. As Priest, He reconciles us to God. As Warrior, He defends us and defeats our enemies. He has the authority to rule us, the righteousness to represent us before God, and the power to defeat everything that threatens us. We have these needs, and Jesus is perfectly sufficient in every role.

Application — What do I do with this?

7. *Individual answers*

8. *Individual answers*

9. *Individual answers*