

Psalm 2 and You

(A Psalm Concerning God's Anointed)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Many of the Psalms are Messianic.
 - A. However, a large portion of these psalms are so *indirectly*, meaning the words and situation addressed by those psalms have two applications—a type/antitype application.
 - i. One applies to the life and experiences of the writer of the psalm.
 - ii. The other to the life and experiences of the Messiah.
 - B. Other Messianic psalms are so *directly*, meaning these do not speak of the experiences of the writer, but directly of the Messiah.
2. The psalm I would like to consider today, Psalm 2, is a *direct Messianic* psalm, one whose words apply directly to Jesus though written some 1000 years before Jesus came into this world.
3. Though the compiler of the Psalms did not include the writer's name, Christians in Acts, which included the apostles Peter and John, state it was written by David (Acts 4:25).
4. It was Acts 4 in which this psalm is quoted that got me to thinking about this psalm.
 - A. For, this psalm was quoted after Peter and John were arrested for preaching Christ and the resurrection, had spent the night in jail, were cross examined by the Jews during which they boldly preached Jesus' resurrection and how He had become God's chief cornerstone which these Jewish leaders were rejecting, were threatened, and finally let go (Acts 4:1-22).
 - B. What follows is a reunion with their brethren where they all praised God for His power as the Creator and the Spirit's work in speaking through David (4:24-26 – “O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘Why did the gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things? ²⁶ ‘the kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’”).
 - C. Why did they quote these words in praise to God? For, at first reading they do not seem to fit.
 - i. Well, they quoted these words as representative of the complete psalm, or Psalm 2, and the wonderful message it gives.
 - ii. They were doing as did Jesus on the cross when he quoted Psalm 22:1 saying, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me,” which at first reading seem like *words of despair*, but instead were representative of the psalm's *triumphant message*.
5. So, this morning I want to talk about **Psalms 2 and You** (and me) because I believe it has significant meaning and application to our lives as Christians.

BODY:

- I. **Why are the nations in an uproar?** (2:1-3 – “Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³ “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!”).
 - A. The questions of “Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing?” is asked in astonishment! (2:1)
 1. I believe what He is asking is “What do they possibly hope to achieve?”
 2. And, nothing has changed. The nations, their leaders continue to be in an uproar, to be enraged, and to take counsel, or plot, even today.
 - a. I have observed this all the days of my life, and it is especially prominent right now!
 - b. But why is it astonishing that they do so?
 - B. The world stands, and plots against **God** (2:2-3 – “The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³ “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!”).
 1. They fight against **Yahweh**, the **I AM**, the **eternal Creator God**, and **His Anointed**, His **Christ** (2:2).

- a. This is why their stand and their plotting are both **astonishing** and in **vain**. For, what can the finite do to the Infinite, the creature to the Creator, man to God?
- b. When we become fearful and despair over what we see in the world and how it may affect us, we are forgetting the very point of this psalm—the **futility of fighting God!**
2. Yet, they continue to do so because they seek freedom from **God**, from His restraints, from the cords/bands of submission that bind them to God’s rule (2:3).
 - a. This, of course, is a typically **blind reaction** to God’s **caring hand** and his “**bonds of love**” by which He leads (Hos. 11:3-4).
 - b. The world acts blindly and vainly in their search for freedom **because they have another master**.
 - i. The world serves Satan, the “prince of the power of the air,” not knowing the end of their deeds (Eph. 2:1-3 – “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,² in which you formerly walked according to **the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, of the **spirit** that is **now working in the sons of disobedience**.³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.”). The freedom they seek is an illusion, nothing but service to Satan and conformity to his rule!
 - ii. But, this deception can be true of those who claim to serve God (Jn. 8:42, 44-45 – “Jesus said to them [the Jews], “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me...⁴⁴ **You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father**. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”).
3. We would be wise to:
 - a. Listen to God and know that what we see today is nothing new. People have always chafed at God’s rule and sought freedom from it.
 - b. Examine our lives and ask whether we stand for God in obedience, or whether we stand against Him in disobedience.

II. The Lord laughs and scoffs at them (2:4-6 – “He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them.⁵ Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying,⁶ “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”).

A. So, “He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them” (2:4).

1. To laugh and scoff are two very similar words meaning to deride, mock, ridicule (**Strong, Mounce**)
2. Why does God mock and ridicule them?
 - a. It is not that He is somehow foolishly unaware of the danger they pose.
 - b. It is because of their arrogance in fighting against Him, **the Lord, Adonai**, the Master, the Ruler, the Sovereign Owner and Controller of the world and its inhabitants!
 - c. For, again, what can they hope to do against Him, to achieve?

B. Because of their rebellion the kings and rulers of the earth will know the Lord’s anger and fury (2:5-6 – “Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying,⁶ “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”).

1. God will:
 - a. Speak to them, rebuking their actions in His anger, or with *nostrils flared!*
 - b. They will be terrified, dismayed, and tremble because of His fury, His burning anger, against them!
 - c. For, who can stand before God’s anger and wrath? (Nah. 1:3-6 – “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the **Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished**. In whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet.⁴ He rebukes

the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; the blossoms of Lebanon wither. ⁵ Mountains quake because of Him and the hills dissolve; indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, the world and all the inhabitants in it. ⁶

Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.”).

2. God laugh and scoffs because **He** has **installed His King upon Zion** (2:6).
 - a. This, along with verse 7, is the centerpiece, or focus, of this psalm.
 - b. It says that the world’s stance and plotting against God **cannot stop His purposes**.
 - i. God wrote this in the past tense to show the certainty of His plan.
 - ii. We, however, should see in it proof positive of God’s purposes because **He has enthroned His king**, Jesus, and **He rules** from Zion (Acts 2:30-36).
 - c. So, despite all the world has done to overthrow God’s rule, His Anointed King sits on His throne and the world is going to have to answer to Him and His judgment! And we should never lose sight of this!

III. The Anointed speaks of the Lord’s decree (2:7-9 – “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”).

- A. First, Yahweh decreed to him, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You” (2:7), which is not describing Jesus’ physical birth, but a promise of His **resurrection**.
 1. There are many places where God describes Jesus as His Son, such as at His baptism and transfiguration.
 2. Yet, there are only three places in the N.T. where God speaks of Jesus in this way, and all three are **connected to Jesus’ resurrection**.
 - a. The first is **Acts 13:32-33** where Paul in the synagogue of Antioch of Pisidia declared, “And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that **He raised up Jesus**, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘**You are My Son; today I have begotten you.**’”).
 - i. It was not at Christ’s baptism, nor at His incarnation that He was begotten.
 - ii. It was when Jesus **obeyed and subjected himself even to death** that He was begotten by the Father in being **resurrected** (Hebrews 5:8).
 - b. This is also true in **Hebrews 5:5** where Jesus becoming our High Priest is tied to the Lord’s statement: “You are My Son. Today I have begotten You.” For, again, it was Jesus’ resurrection that allowed him to become High Priest as is stated in **Heb. 5:7-10**.
 - c. And this is true of **Hebrews 1:5** where it asks, “For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You?”
 - i. For, when did this take place?
 - ii. It took place when Jesus purged our sins by his death and was then **raised** to sit God’s right hand as **Heb. 1:3-4** declares.
 3. So, despite the world’s raging and plotting to stop the enthroning of God’s king by putting Jesus to death on a cross, God’s purposes were served and Jesus’ reigns through resurrection!
- B. Second, Yahweh decreed to His Anointed, “Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.” (2:8).
 1. First, we should know that Christ received the nations through His obedience in offering himself as a perfect sacrifice and being raised to sit on God’s throne (Acts 2:30-36).
 2. This promise helps us understand how great Satan’s temptation was in Matthew 4:8-10 when he showed and offered to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory!
 - a. Satan was offering Him a way to receive the kingdoms without the suffering of the cross!
 - b. That is still one of Satan’s greatest temptations—the desire to have what we desire without doing the work, without going through God’s channels, to achieve it.

- c. But, of course, Jesus triumphed over Satan, choosing to worship, or serve, God instead by facing the suffering to receive the promise. **And, God calls on us to do the same.**
- C. Third, Yahweh decreed to His Anointed, ““You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.”).
 - 1. And, again, it was by Jesus’s willingness to submit to His death *plotted by Satan and his armies* that He by the *resurrection* not only rules, but has power to *crush* his enemies!
 - 2. The N.T.’s use of these words, especially those found in Revelation, are quite telling.
 - a. Revelation 19:15 we read, “From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.”
 - i. Here the Christ, who was crucified through the world’s stand and plotting against Him, **is pictured on a white horse going out to lead his heavenly armies.**
 - ii. Here we see the risen Christ **waging war and striking down the nations.**
 - b. In Revelation 2:26-27 it says that the one who overcomes and obeys will receive from God “authority over the nations; ²⁷ and He shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father.”
 - i. Note carefully that it says the **one who overcomes** and faithfully **obeys** will, like God promised Jesus, will overcome his/her enemies also! What a wonderful thing God has promised to His people!
 - ii. Also, it is important to note that “rule” in 2:27 is the word “shepherd,” indicating that stern discipline given by the Lord in hopes of taming his sheep, which is followed by the destruction of those who prove themselves rebellious and incorrigible. Thus, grace is offered before punishment.
 - 3. So, all the world’s evil plotting and efforts come to nothing but the realization of facing Christ’s rule, in which grace is offered, and their own destruction if they do not submit!
 - a. We are living in that day—the day of Christ’s rule.
 - b. So, do not believe the lie that Satan has the upper hand! He does not!

IV. A call for discernment (2:10-12 – “Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. ¹¹ Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”).

- A. In grace the kings and judges, or rulers, of the earth that stand and plot against God are offered the one and only hope of salvation.
- B. They are invited to show *discernment*, understanding, or wisdom, and *be warned!* (2:10)
 - 1. For, the outcome of their standing and scheming against the Lord is His coming **wrath** and the **crushing destruction** from His Christ!
 - 2. So, the wise will accept God’s truth and obey (Eph. 5:15-17 – “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as **wise**, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**”).
- C. They must worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling (2:11).
 - 1. To worship is to **serve**, to **submit in service** to Yahweh in reverence, or godly fear, which requires they end their discontent and their stand and plotting against Him.
 - 2. They must **rejoice with trembling**, which presents an appropriate mixture of emotions that arise when serving such a great and powerful King!
- D. They must “Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled...” (2:12).
 - 1. This literally says, *kiss the Son*, as one would show homage by *kissing the hand* of a great king.
 - a. Note again that God extends His grace to such arrogant and rebellious people as described here, allowing them to enter the very court of God’s king to worship him.

- b. Yet, this grace is only offered if one will be wise and obey. For, those who do not will face His **anger** and **perish!**
- c. So, it is with urgency that they, and we, obey to avoid God's **anger**, knowing that His **wrath** may soon be kindled. And when this happens, it will be too late.
2. Yet, the conclusion of the song is, again, a great expression of God's grace in that **everyone who takes refuge in Him will be blessed**. That is the wonder of our God!
3. So, I want to remind you again that it does not matter what we may see about us, how the world stands and schemes against Yahweh and His Christ, the **purposes** of God **will not be stopped** and **His people will be blessed...even eternally!**

CONCLUSION:

1. So, whether it will be blessings or condemnation is up to you! What choice will you make?
 - A. Will you choose to allow the turmoil and plotting of the wicked drive you to fear and despair?
 - B. Or will you open your heart to God's word and with confidence know that there will always be an uproar and plotting against God...but that it is all in vain! They cannot stop God's purposes!
2. For, God revealed this some 3000 years ago. And the world has done as He said it would. And God had done as He said He would. So, know for sure that **He will do as He has said He will do**.
3. So, what are you going to decide today to do with the Son?
 - A. Will you show homage in obedience or stand against him by putting it off, by refusing to obey, only to be crushed by the One who could have been your Savior?
 - B. Will you come to Jesus today, trusting Him as your Lord and Savior, repenting of your sins, confessing your faith, and being baptized into Christ for forgiveness and salvation?