



## Bible Lesson – Psalm 2

### THE KING Reigns

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!”

<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, <sup>6</sup> “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

<sup>7</sup> “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup> ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. <sup>9</sup> ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> 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!

#### 1. Introduction

- A. There is no blessing in rebellion towards God. If you are fighting God, today is the day to lay down your sword and quit fighting Him! **2 Corinthians 6:2** Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”.
- B. Psalm 2 gives clear imagery of fighting against God, but it also holds out hope for making peace with God...V.12 being blessed (remember Psalm 1...the blessed man).
- C. Psalm 2 is an example of a Messianic Psalm. See further discussion in 4.0.
- D. Although the author is not stated, there is indication that it is David (Acts 4:25).
- E. Observation: Did you notice how Psalm 1 begins with blessing and ends with cursing, whereas Psalm 2 begins with cursing and ends with blessing.

#### 2. V.1-3; Rebellion of the wicked

- A. Leaders (and entire nations) are rebelling and plotting against God.
  - I. V.1 is a rhetorical question; “How foolish can you be?” **Proverbs 19:3** *The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.*
  - II. V.2; “His Anointed”...Messiah. Earthly rulers are organizing their nations against The King of Kings.
  - III. V.3; [paraphrase] “Let’s fight against God and cast aside His rule so that we can rule...Let’s take down the Lord’s King.” Many examples of the wicked hating God and wanting to “take down” His chosen ones.
    1. OT; Joshua 10:1-5, Philistines, Moabites, Babylonians, Assyrians
    2. NT; Acts 4 (Peter and John arrested). Quote Psalm 2 in V.26.
    3. Today; Can you think of individuals, leaders, nations that hate God and want to take Him down?
  - IV. Harkens all the way back to the beginning in Genesis 3:15; There will be enmity between God’s people and the wicked.

#### 3. V.4-6; Reminder of God’s Sovereignty

- A. V.4; **He who sits in the heavens**...King Jesus reigns over all of creation, while earthly kings reign over a tiny speck of creation.
- B. V.4; **He laughs, scoffs at them**...**Psalm 37:13** *The Lord laughs at him, for He sees his day is coming.*
  - I. Why?...Because the earthly king’s plans are pure vanity, a complete waste of time, futile.
  - II. Illustrations:
    1. Like trying to cut your grass with a pocket knife.
    2. Like trying to put out a forest fire with a garden hose.
  - III. He doesn’t just laugh at them, but He holds them in contempt (pending judgment).  
**Proverbs 19:29** *Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and blows for the back of fools.*



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- C. V.5-6; He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury...
  - I. A coronation speech...God speaking of the coronation and installment of His King.
  - II. Paraphrase; “I’ve heard what you earthly kings have said (V.3). Now listen to what I say...I will install My King, on My holy mountain, Zion.”
  - III. Preparing for battle to exercise His holy wrath on the wicked...who can stand...no one.
    - 1. **2 Chronicles 20:6** [Judah is invaded; Jehoshaphat’s prayer] *“O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.*
    - 2. **Psalm 110:5-6** *The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. <sup>6</sup> He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.*
- D. This is terrible news for the wicked, but great news for God’s people...a reminder of God’s sovereignty over all things.

#### 4. V.7-9; Rule of God’s King

- A. In V.1-3, the earthly kings speak (the wicked). In V.4-6, God speaks. In V.7-9, The King (Jesus) speaks.
- B. V.7; *You are My Son, today I have **begotten** You.* In this context, begotten does not mean given birth to, but rather it is a poetic way of saying I have anointed you, installed you as King.
- C. V.8; [paraphrase] “God told Me that the whole of creation is mine to rule over.” “I am the King of kings.”
- D. V.9; Image a victorious warrior. The wicked will be demolished.
  - I. **Psalm 1:4-5** *...But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment...*
- E. New Testament Messianic references:
  - I. **Acts 4:26** *‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things? ‘The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’*
  - II. **Acts 13:32-33** <sup>32</sup> *And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, <sup>33</sup> 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.’*
  - III. **Hebrews 1:3-5** <sup>3</sup> *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”?*
  - IV. **Hebrews 5:5** <sup>5</sup> *So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”*
  - V. **Revelation 2:27** <sup>27</sup> *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.*
  - VI. **Revelation 12:5** <sup>5</sup> *And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.*
  - VII. **Revelation 19:15** <sup>15</sup> *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.*



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#### 5. V.10-12; Refuge that God provides

- A. V.10; Similar to other examples of warning nations to turn away from evil and towards God.
  - I. *Ezekiel 14:6* <sup>6</sup> “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Repent and turn away from your idols and turn your faces away from all your abominations.”
  - II. *Jonah 3:8-9* ...<sup>8</sup> and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”
  - III. *Acts 17:30-31* <sup>30</sup> Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”
- B. V.11; *Worship the Lord with reverence*...Worship Him with the honor and respect He deserves.
  - I. X-Ray question: How does your reverence for God compare to other aspects of your life? Are there other areas of your life that you revere more than God?
- C. V.11; *Rejoice with trembling*...Be in trembling awe before him, but also rejoice and give thanks that you are His child and He is your God.
- D. V.12; *Do homage to the Son*...Bowling before the King, honoring Him.

#### 6. Summary

- A. Psalm 2 is a stern warning for sure, but also a call to the nations (and people) to turn from their evil ways and repent...the call of the Gospel.
  - I. *Ezekiel 33:10-11* <sup>10</sup> “Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus you have spoken, saying, “Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we are rotting away in them; how then can we survive?”’” <sup>11</sup> Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.
- B. Psalm 2 ends with blessing; V.12 *How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*
  - I. Blessing is not found in **cursing** God, but in **cherishing** Him.
  - II. Blessing is not found in **fighting** God, but through **faith** in Him.
  - III. Blessing is not found in **hating** God, but in **honoring** Him.
  - IV. Blessing is not found in **loathing** God, but in **loving** Him.
  - V. Blessing is not found in **plotting** against God, but in **praising** Him.
  - VI. Blessing is not found in **rebellng** against God, but in **repenting** of your sin.
  - VII. Blessing is not found in **waging war** against God, but in **worshipping** Him.
- C. End where we started
  - I. There is no blessing in rebellion towards God. If you are fighting God, today is the day to lay down your sword and quit fighting Him! *2 Corinthians 6:2 Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”.*