

Psalm 2 – The Glory and Greatness of the Messiah King

The theme of Psalm 2 is emphasized in the final verse. We can defy God and perish, or we can surrender to Him and be blessed. The psalm itself does not identify its author, but Acts 4:25-26 clearly attributes it to David.

The Nations Rebel and Rage (verses 1-3)

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, the rulers of the earth “rage...plot a vain thing...set themselves...and take counsel together.” Their desire? To break away from the Lord and His Anointed. Why? Because they view His leadership as oppressive. The Lord’s Anointed is His King. 2 Samuel 10 gives a clear example of how the nations raged against David, the Lord’s anointed king. We understand from the New Testament that Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of this psalm (Acts 4:25-26, 13:33). Jesus is the Anointed King, the Beloved Son of God.

Discussion: Verse 2 mentions "the kings of the earth" taking their stand against the Lord and His Anointed. In what ways do we see modern culture, politics, or leadership rebelling against God’s authority today?

Discussion: The rulers want to "break their bonds (chains)" (Verse 3). Why does humanity often view God’s moral boundaries as restrictive chains rather than protective boundaries?

The Lord Laughs from Heaven (verses 4-6)

It is not an earthly throne God occupies, but a glorious throne in heaven. What does the Lord do when the kings of the earth rage and plot the overthrow of His rule? He laughs. He holds them in derision. They say, “We will not have His Anointed to rule over us.” He responds, “Yet I have set My King...” His plans are in no way hindered by their wrath and plotting and joining forces. They will face His wrath and His deep displeasure.

Discussion: God answers the rebellious nations by declaring, "I have installed My King on Zion" (Verse 6). How does remembering God’s sovereignty change how you view chaotic or distressing world events?

Thoughts: *God’s sovereign response should comfort His children knowing that human rebellion doesn’t stress or threaten God.*

God’s Decree to His Son (verses 7-9)

Now the Lord’s Anointed speaks. The pledge of adoption given to King David’s heir in 2 Samuel 7:14 is enlarged (“I will be His Father and he will be my son”). Acts 13:33 connects this announcement with the raising of Jesus from the dead. Hebrews 1:5 quotes Psalm 2:7 to exclude the very angels from being able to fulfill such a prophecy. No earthly king and no

mighty angel can be seen as proper candidates to fulfill this decree—only the Lord Jesus. At His baptism and transfiguration, the Father proclaimed Jesus to be His Son.

What does Yahweh promise to His Son, the Anointed One? The nations. His inheritance, His heritage, will be the nations. The ends of the earth will be His possession. Revelation 11:15 describes an exciting consummation of this inheritance: *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*

Why is it so foolish for the nations to defy the LORD and His Anointed? Will there be any benefit to their defiant opposition? No. What will there be? Judgment. His power is likened to a “rod of iron” over clay pots.

Discussion: The King is promised the nations as His inheritance and the ends of the earth as His possession (Verse 8). How does this promise shape the way we should view global missions and evangelism?

God’s Decree to the Nations (verses 10-12)

In light of His decree to His Son, Yahweh calls the nations to rethink their rage and rebellion. Instead of acting so foolishly, they should “be wise” and “instructed” by His decree. They should turn from all rebellion and “serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.” This is a call to submit to Yahweh and His Anointed with the kiss of homage. Psalm 2 looks forward to a final scenario when the nations fully rally against God’s reign, culminating in the Messiah’s victorious judgment.

Discussion: Describe God’s **grace** given here in these last three verses of the Psalm.

Thoughts: Notice that the last verse is a “beatitude”—a pronouncement of blessing. There is perfect justice in and with God and His Anointed. And there is also genuine mercy to those who repent. In their fear and pride, the nations interpret God’s ways as bondage (v.3), but His ways are, in fact, security and bliss. One may say, “And there is no refuge from Him: only in Him.” That is grace!