

I. Introduction

A. Psalm 2 fits together with Psalm 1 to introduce the Book of Psalms.

1. Psalm 1 begins with, "How blessed"; Psalm 2 ends with the same word (in Hebrew).
2. Psalm 1 ends with a threat and Psalm 2 ends with a threat
3. In Psalm 1, the godly man meditates on God's law and in Psalm 2, the wicked meditates on how to cast off the rule of God.
4. In Psalm 1 the theme is the contrast between the righteous and the wicked person; in Psalm 2 the theme is the contrast between the rebellion of wicked rulers and nations and the rule of God's righteous Messiah.

B. About whom is this Psalm written?

1. This is a Psalm of David the anointed King of Israel.

Acts 4:24-26 "And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'..."

2. This is a Psalm about Jesus the Messiah -- the Son of David and the Son of God. Psalm 2 is the most frequently quoted psalm in the New Testament. *Acts 13:32-33, Heb. 1:5, Heb5:5, Rev 2:26 – 27, Rev. 12:5, Rev. 19:15*

Peter & John with the believers after they had been before the council: **Acts 4:27-29**
"for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,.."

C. This is a Psalm that speaks to god's people today

II. The Raging of the Nations

A. In David's day the Gentile nations surrounding Israel sought to destroy her. Philistines, Ammonites, Moabites, Amalekites, Edomites – **2 Sam 8:11-15**

B. When Christ came, diverse peoples united in seeking to destroy Him. Pharisees and Sadducees **Acts 4:25-28**

C. Humanity still resists God's authority.

1. The worldly kings and the people of the world have united themselves against God and do not want the LORD to reign over them. He cramps their style!

Romans 1:28-32 "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. "

2. Their hostility against the Lord is turned against us.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

III. The Rebuke of the Lord

- A. God mocks the world's mighty men.

1. God calmly sits in heaven.

Psalm 113:4-6 "The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?"

2. All human independence and power is an illusion. God alone is perfectly free and sovereign.

Psalm 115:2-3 "Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

- B. God is angry with rebellious humanity.

Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

- C. The Lord has installed His King to judge the earth.

John 5:26-29 "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

IV. The Retaliation of the Son

- A. The Father decrees the Sonship of His Anointed.

1. The LORD made a covenant with David pledging that his son would reign forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16 "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

2. Jesus is the Son of David and the anointed Son of God.
3. Through Christ, we are adopted sons of God.

- B. The Father has given the nations of the earth to the Son as His own.

1. David was given Canaan/Israel.
2. David's greater Son reigns over all the nations.

Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

3. We His people share in His inheritance.

Colossians 1:12 "...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."

- C. The Son utterly will crush the arrogant rebels.

1. David was appointed to defeat those who opposed God's kingdom.

2. Those who submit to his Son submit to the LORD. Those who resist, fight God.

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

3. The rebels will fall down in terror when Jesus returns.

Revelation 6:15-17 "Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

4. He has already won. Our God reigns!

Colossians 2:15 "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

5. Even today the Son's reign is being extended, through us, to all the nations of the earth.

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- V. The Refuge of the Wise

- A. This is a gospel psalm! Instead of immediately destroying the traitors, He offers grace and mercy to all who will repent and believe.

- B. Come to your senses and heed His gracious warning.

1. Worship (serve) the LORD with reverent joy.

2. Kiss the Son or else you will perish.

1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming."

3. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him – We are safe because the Son has met the demands of divine justice on the cross.

Isaiah 53:5 " But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

4. Stay Strong!

Ephesians 6:10-13 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we

do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you answer someone who say, "If God is sovereign over everything, then He is the author of evil"? (James 1:13, Deuteronomy 32:4, 2 Samuel 22:31, Psalm 18:30, Matthew 5:48)
2. It is hard not to react negatively to those who conspire, plot and devise plans against God, and us! Read Luke 6:27 – 36 and Ephesians 6 and discuss how Christians should respond.

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