

Psalm 2

Theme: The foolishness or folly of rebellion against God.

- This second Psalm is the first of many Messianic Psalms.
- Written by David (Acts 4:25)
- This Psalm is quite a contrast to the first Psalm.

1. Psalm 1 emphasizes God's Law, while Psalm 2 focuses on prophecy.
2. The people in Psalm 1 delight in the Law whereas the people in Psalm 2 defy the law.
3. Psalm 1 begins with a beatitude, Psalm 2 ends with a beatitude.
4. Psalm 1 is not quoted even once in the New Testament, Psalm 2 is quoted 18 times, more than any other single Psalm.
5. Psalm 2 is a Messianic psalm; the test of a Messianic psalm is that it is quoted in the New Testament referring to Jesus.

V: 1 Rhetorical question: “**Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?**” Why do they get so mad and think or imagine stupid things?

2 Thessalonians 2:7 “**For the mystery of iniquity doeth already work...**”

- When you consider all that the Lord had done for the nations, how can they rebel against Him? God has provided for their basic needs, guided them, kept them alive, and sent a Savior to bring forgiveness and eternal life - horrible things indeed!
- That rage, anger is a fleshly response to righteousness, it is the fruit of the flesh:

Galatians 5:19-21 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- The “**heathen**” - the Gentiles / Goim - non-Jews / non-believers. Think Herod, an Edomite, Pontius Pilate - a Roman, normally two groups that would be at odds with each other, yet united in their hatred of the Messiah.
- “**Rage**”, they are angry and bitter against God without reason. The word “rage” in Latin is derived from the word “rabies”. An uncontrollable form of madness.

- They imagine or think a “**vain**” thing - a foolish thought, stupid thoughts, unreasonable.
- They are thinking wrongly and need to change the way that they think:

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (right mind), whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

V: 2 The kings, earthly leaders - the rulers covers everyone else:

- Oligarch: someone who derives great power from their wealth; very rich businessmen with great political power because of their wealth. George Soros, Warren Buffet, the Rothschilds, etc.
- They take counsel together - from the ungodly, the sinful, and the scornful just like Psalm 1 says not to.

1 Corinthians 3:19 “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

- They take counsel specifically against the “**LORD**” Yahweh / Jehovah, the Father and “**His Anointed**” - against the “Anointed One” against Jesus Christ. Anointed is literally “Mesheach” or “Messiah” in Hebrew. Against the Father and the Son.

John 5:23 “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him.”

Jesus said:

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

- The world generally is at enmity with the Messiah, they reject Him.

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- Acts 4 - the disciples were arrested for speaking in the name of Jesus and were threatened with a more severe punishment if they continued: Peter & John then quote this Messianic Psalm indicating it's fulfillment.

Acts 4:25-27 “²⁵Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? ²⁶The kings of the earth

stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ. ²⁷For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were gathered together.”

- They were seeing and living through a short term fulfillment of this scripture.

V: 3 **The voice of the nations:** Breaking the bands: those things that restrain; casting away the chords - that bind.

- They are saying in effect we will not be restrained, we will not be bound - we're going to do whatever we want. Hence the declaration, "if it feels good, do it."
- This is tantamount to cutting the brake lines on your car so you can drive without any hindrance, total freedom.
- Verses 2 & 3 are the answer to the question posed in verse 1. Why do they rage? Because they don't want to be told what to do, or what not to do.
- They don't like being told "no", and it's all just a big tantrum ...
- This is the reason behind evolutionary theories. If there is no God then we're not accountable to something that doesn't exist. But if there is a God, a creator, then we are obligated to obey Him.

We see it differently:

1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."

Bottom line - I'm with Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 10:23 "Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

- The Apostles and believers in the church of Acts saw the short term fulfillment of this Messianic Psalm. They saw the rulers and kings reject the Messiah and come against His Anointed One.
- This passage will have its ultimate fulfillment in the future. When the anti-Christ gathers together the rulers and people in order to try to stand against the future reign of Jesus Christ. Jesus is coming again to establish the kingdom of God upon the earth. And that is what this Psalm basically is about.
- Prior to Jesus' return the anti-Christ will gather together the kings of the nations and the rulers, and the nations of the world will be gathered together in an attempt to stop His return and reign. It's called the battle of Armageddon, and it'll be a slaughter.

- The foolishness of trying to fight God, or thinking that you can; vain thoughts indeed.

V: 4-5 He that sits in the heavens; identifying God who is high above and lifted up beyond all things, God has a different view of things. Man's perspective is very low, we can't see as much.

- God looks down upon these men and laughs at their plans; it is laughable foolishness to rebel against God.
- God will at some point speak to them in His wrath - they will experience the wrath of God, they will be troubled greatly in God's displeasure.
- This is speaking of their final end, judgment day is coming to the un-repentant.

Hebrews 9:26-27 “²⁶For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

V: 6-7 Yet, in spite of all their plans - God has set His appointed king to rule over Zion, Israel. Here he's speaking of future events which are so sure and established in God's prophetic plan, that He speaks of them as though they had already happened.

Hebrews 1:5 “For unto which of the angles said He at any time, thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?”

V: 6 The Father speaks.

V: 7 The Son speaks.

- The Lord said unto me...? Who is the “me”? The Lord is speaking about His Son - His only begotten Son.

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Speaking of the crucifixion:

Hebrews 12:2 “...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,..”

- The cross was a horrible thing, something that Jesus despised, but He endured it for the joy that was set before Him. What was that joy? The decree that God makes in the following verses beginning with.

V:7b *“Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten thee.”* I’m thrilled to be a son of God, but Jesus is THE Son of God!

V: 8-9 This is the decree spoken of in V: 7: God is still speaking to His Son - declaring essentially that He shall possess all things and shall rule them with a rod of Iron.

- The decree is that Jesus Christ shall reign over all the earth! The promise of the Father, He will set His king upon the holy hill of Zion - Jesus shall reign over all!
- Up until the 11th century, all the Jewish commentators on this passage saw this as a prophecy about the Messiah. But when they saw how it completely fit Jesus they reversed course and declared that it is not about the Messiah, not about Jesus, and that the Messiah would not and could not be the Son of God. Today the primary reason why the Jews reject Jesus as Messiah is that He claimed to be the “Son of God.”
- This position of course besides ignoring the obvious statements in Psalm 2, also contradicts other scriptures referring to the Messiah.

Such as:

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...”

- When Jesus stood before the High Priest and the council the High Priest questioned Him:

Matthew 26:63 “... I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.”

On another occasion they took up stones to stone Jesus; Jesus asked:

John 10:32-33 “³²... many good works have I shewed you from My Father; for which of those works do ye stone Me? ³³The Jews answered Him, saying, for a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

- Jesus had constantly been affirming that He was the “Son of God” which they equated to blasphemy, making Himself to be equal with God.
- In that day they thought that the Messiah would be the Son of God.
- Jesus, the Son, the Messiah will reign with a rod of iron - this describes His reign over the earth, that it will be an absolute, iron clad reign.
- Satan will be bound in the abusso. We will return with Christ as He establishes His reign upon the earth.
- We will reign with Him for a thousand years, the Millennial Reign.

To the church in Thyatira:

Revelation 2:26-27 “²⁶And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations. ²⁷And He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of My Father.”

- Jesus is going to share his reign with the church, and we will reign with Him.

- Who is speaking?

V:1 The Psalmist asks the question - “**why do the heathen rage?**”

V: 4-6 God the Father is speaking about the Son.

V: 7-8 God the Son is speaking.

V: 9-12 God the Holy Spirit is speaking.

- The Psalm now ends with a word to the wise.

V: 10-12 Turning back to the sons of men, they are / we are cautioned: be wise, be teachable and learn.

V: 11 “**Serve the LORD with fear...**”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

V: 12 “Kiss the Son...” who is speaking? It’s not the Father. It’s not the Son. It is the Holy Spirit speaking, because He’s pointing all men toward’s the Son, He’s testifying of the Son.

John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.” (Trinity)

1. Serve God, be obedient to His word.

Jesus said:

John 14:15 “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. Rejoice with trembling - humility.

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

Nehemiah 8:10 “... the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

3. Kiss the Son - "proskuneo" - pros = turn towards. Kuneo "to kiss" this combination literally means to "worship", to express appreciation, devotion, and love.

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

4. Change your ways, make peace with God's Son. Those that do are blessed.

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

- Psalm 2 concludes with the promised blessing for all who put their trust in the Son of God. That promise still stands.