



Psalm 2

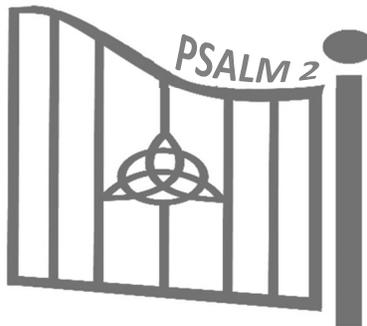
WHY IS THE WORLD IN CHAOS?

However mad the resolution to revolt from God, it is one in which man has persevered ever since his creation, and he continues in it to this very day. The glorious reign of Jesus in the latter day will not be consummated until a terrible struggle has convulsed the nations. His coming will be as a refiner's fire...and the day thereof shall burn as an oven. Earth loves not her rightful monarch, but clings to the usurper's sway; the terrible conflicts of the last days will illustrate both the world's love of sin and Jehovah's power to give the kingdom to His only Begotten. To a graceless neck the yoke of Christ is intolerable, but to the saved sinner it is easy and light. We may judge ourselves by this, do we love that yoke, or do we wish to cast it from us?

—Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-92)



Blessed are those who delight in God's Word.



Blessed are those who trust in God's Son.

The **five books of the Psalms** provide a general overview of the "conflict of the ages" and the flow of redemptive history:

- Psalms 1-41: Opposition to God's Anointed King
- Psalms 42-72: Communication to the Nations
- Psalms 73-89: Devastation and Despair of God's People
- Psalms 90-106: Faith in God's Sovereign Kingship
- Psalms 107-150: Consummation and Celebration!

THE ANGRY _____ OF THE NATIONS (2:1-3)

The futility of their rebellion

The target of their rebellion

The goal of their rebellion

The Psalter opens with Psalms 1 and 2 serving as pillars marking the entrance to the temple of the Psalter. God's law and God's Messiah provide a dual source of blessing for God's people as they enter this temple.

—O. Palmer Robertson

Rage. Hebrew, *ragash*, "any noisy or riotous assembly that practically seethes in its antagonism" (Leupold).

I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; and consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. ...For myself, as no doubt for most of my friends, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom

—Aldous Huxley (1884-1963)

If God does not exist, everything is permitted.

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

THE SOVEREIGN _____ OF GOD (2:4-6)

God mocks the proud (cf. Proverbs 3:34)

God speaks in His wrath (cf. Romans 1:18-32)

God declares His irrevocable decree (cf. Psalm 89:34-37)

THE COMING _____ OF THE MESSIAH (2:7-9)

The Anointed King now speaks and declares God's settled decree, revealed in the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:4-17; 23:5). The Son of David, the Son of God, will crush all opposition and reign in power, righteousness and peace, from Jerusalem (Zion), over all the earth (cf. Is. 9:6-7; 11:1-12:6; Jer. 23:5-6; Luke 1:32-33; Rev. 19:11-16).

The Messiah is declared to be the Son of God in a unique way. As the Son, He does whatever His Father does (cf. John 5:19-27). His eternal Sonship was demonstrated, in time, by His resurrection from the dead (cf. Acts 2:25-36; 13:28-39; Romans 1:1-4; Phil. 2:9-11).

THE URGENT _____ TO ALL PEOPLE (2:10-12)

Be wise, humble yourself, and listen.

Fear the LORD and rejoice in His grace.

Submit to the Son in grateful adoration.

Realize that judgment on the earth is coming.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Discussion Questions:

- When you see crazy things happening in the world, how do you typically respond? Anger? Anxiety? Sorrow? Cynicism? Escape?
- In what ways does the world feed our desire for autonomy, to do what we want when we want (e.g., commercials, songs, shows)? In what ways do you find yourself demanding your own way?
- How can knowing God's decree in 2:6-9 change your focus?
- What exhortation in 2:10-12 impacts you the most? Why?

In a bold figure the Lord is represented as being amused at the foolish endeavors of His enemies. —H. C. Leupold

The major distinctive of the book of Psalms is its unfolding of the central aspects of God's covenant with David, which may be characterized as the "covenant of the kingdom. ...The Lord's throne will be merged with David's messianic throne in this single place of God's choice.

—O. Palmer Robertson

Jesus was always the Son of God, but the Father declared Him to be the Son by resurrecting Him. Jesus did not change in essence—He always was the Son—but in status and function. God appointed the Son to a new and more powerful position in relation to the world at the Resurrection (cf. Matt. 28:18). He is now not only the Messiah but the Lord of all.

—Thomas Constable

Christ's present ministry is a priestly ministry designed to reconcile men to God. His rule as King awaits His coming at His second advent. Church ministry is not one of establishing a kingdom; it is a ministry of reconciliation, inviting sinners to find peace with God through Jesus Christ, the Messiah. When the kingly ministry of Christ is initiated, rather than inviting sinners to find peace and reconciliation, His focus among unbelievers in the world will include His dashing nations to pieces like a potter smashing an unwanted vessel. —George A. Gunn

If you lay yourself at Christ's feet, He will take you up into His arms.

—William Bridge (1600-70)