

THE REIGN OF GOD'S SON

Psalm 2

Key Truth:

World leaders would be wise to heed God's warning and not resist Jesus at His second coming.

The setting for Psalm 2 was Solomon's coronation. The day was full of pageantry. Government officials, dignitaries and representatives from surrounding countries dressed in their finest. Jerusalem spruced up and decorated with banners. There was music, a procession, prayers, singing, speeches and more singing before Solomon was crowned and sat on his father, David's, throne. But there was one song sung that day for the first time for a select group of attendees. Present in the crowd that day were representatives of the nations King David had conquered, Philistia, Amalek, Edom, Moab, Ammon and Syria. Even as they cordially participated in the festivities of the day, King David knew the plotting in their hearts for it was during just such transitions in leadership that nations rebelled against their overlords.

Psalm 2 was written by King David (Acts 4:25-26) as a warning to these nations not to rebel against Yahweh and His Anointed King.

Psalm 2 was recited/sung not only at Solomon's coronation, but also at the coronation of each successive Davidic King as a warning to conquered kings not to revolt. To revolt would be foolish because

- 1) the King of Israel is appointed by God, not men – he is God's *anointed (meshiach)*;
- 2) the King of Israel is God's *Son* carrying out the will of his Father and
- 3) God has given His Son the nations as his inheritance.

Psalm 2 applied to each of the Davidic Kings. Its ultimate fulfillment will be in the second coming of Jesus.

PSALM 2

¹Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,

against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³"Let us burst their bonds apart

and cast away their cords from us."

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs;

the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶"As for me, I have set my King

on Zion, my holy hill."

⁷I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;

today I have begotten you.

⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2 lays out in four sections:

Verses 1-3 The nations conspire against the Lord and His anointed.

Verses 4-6 The Lord responds.

Verses 7-9 The King rehearses the Lord's decree.

Verses 10-12 A warning to the kings of the earth.

I. The Nations Conspire Against the Lord and His Anointed (2:1-3)

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³ "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

The rebellious plotting of the kings is a *vain thing* because they can never thwart God's authority working through His anointed kings of the house of David.

Notice in verse 2 that the Davidic king is referred to as "his (the LORD's) *Anointed*." Every Davidic king was anointed with oil signifying his divine appointment. *Anointed* in Hebrew is *Meshiach*, Messiah. Every Davidic king was God's *messiah*.

In verses 4-6 God responds to the rebellious kings.

II. The Lord Responds (Psalm 2:4-6)

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

How can the "kings of the earth" possibly believe they can defeat the God of heaven? That is why God laughs with derision.

Unlike any other king or ruler on earth, the Davidic king of Israel is appointed by the one true God. He rules with the full support and power of God behind him. As we see in the book of 2 Chronicles, the Davidic kings were invincible when they ruled in obedience to God. As an example, with God's help, King Asa defeated an Ethiopian invasion by an army of a million men (2 Chron. 14:9ff.). To rebel against the Davidic king is to rebel against God Himself.

In verses 7-9 the speaker is the king being coronated. It is his opportunity to declare that he is a participant in the Davidic Covenant; that as king he is God's *son* and God is his *Father* (2 Samuel 7:10-17)

III. The King Declares the Lord's Decree (2:7-9)

⁷ I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Every Davidic king became God's *son* when crowned. This is because of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:4-17). Speaking to David, God said,

²² 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. ²³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ²⁴ 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,

God promised David that through his offspring his kingdom and throne would be established forever. God also promised a special type relationship between himself and David's offspring; a father – son relationship. Central to that relationship was obedience. When the king ruled in obedience to God he was invincible.

As a result, from the giving of the Davidic Covenant onward the title *Son of God* referred to the Davidic King. Each Davidic King was God's *son* and God's *anointed* (messiah).¹

Because the King of Israel stood in this unique relationship with God it would be foolish for the kings to rebel.

In addition, the Father has given the nations to His Son as his inheritance. In verse 8 we see that this Psalm is prophetic in that none of the Davidic kings personally ruled the whole world. But the Scriptures reveal that Jesus, a descendant of David and heir to the throne, will one day rule the world.

Verses 7-9 had a near term fulfillment and a future fulfillment. The near term fulfillment was the authority and power God gave His kings over their enemies. When the kings of Israel lead the nation to faithfully keep the commandments of the Mosaic Covenant, they were invincible. They conquered their enemies and ruled over them. But when they forsook the Lord, the Lord punished them by allowing them to be defeated and plundered at the hands of their enemies.

Because they cannot succeed, David exhorts the rebellious kings to submit to the Lord and His King.

IV. The Psalmist Warns the Kings of the Earth (2:10-12)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹ For us, we assume the title *Son of God* always refers to the deity of Jesus. But that is not the case. For the Jews it became a messianic title referring to the Davidic King. Nathaniel exemplifies a first century Jewish usage of *Son of God* referring to the Davidic king:

John 1:47-49 (ESV)

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
¹² Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2 was written by King David as a warning to the nations not to rebel against the Lord and His Anointed King. It was recited/sung at the coronation of the Davidic Kings; the season most vulnerable to rebellion. David warns that rebellion is futile because:

- 1) the King of Israel is appointed by God, not men – he is God's *anointed (meshiach)*;
- 2) the King of Israel is God's Son carrying out the will of his Father and
- 3) God has given His Son the nations as his inheritance.

Psalm 2 had a near term relevance to every Davidic King, but has its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

He is from the bloodline of David and rightful heir to the throne.

He has been crowned King and officially received the titled, *Son* in the order of the Davidic Kings.

Hebrews 1:3-9 (ESV)

³ ...After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son"?

But Jesus has not yet taken possession of His inheritance.

Hebrews 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ And to which of the angels has he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Jesus is awaiting the day when Israel as a nation embraces Him as her Messiah (Matt. 23:37-39; Zech. 12:10-13:1) and then the Father will release Him to take possession of His inheritance. That great day is described in Revelation 19:11-21.

Revelation 19:11-21 (ESV)

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its

presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Tragically, the kings of the earth will not heed the warning of Psalm 2.