

Psalm Two

Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
²The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”
⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
⁶“Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”
⁷“I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
⁸Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.
⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
¹⁰Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
¹¹Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

Introduction

Last week at OIC we studied Psalm 1, the emphasis was upon **God’s Law**.

However, Psalm 2 focuses on **prophecy**.

In Psalm 1 the people are **blessed who delight in God’s Law**. However the people in Psalm 2 **defy God’s Law**.

Psalm 1 is never quoted in the New Testament, but Psalm 2 is quoted or alluded to at least 17 times.

It is quoted more than any other single Psalm in the New Testament.

(All the quotations in the N/T are recorded in your notes. – Matt.3:17,17:5, Mark 1:11,9:7, Luke 3:22,9:35, John 1:49, Acts 4:25-26, 13:33, Phil. 2:12, Heb. 1: 2,5,5:5, Rev.2:26-27, 11:18, 12:5, 19:15,)

Psalm 2 is a Messianic Psalm.

This means that the Psalm is all about Jesus.

The test of a Messianic Psalm is that it is quoted in the New Testament as referring to Jesus.

(See Luke 24: v.27, 44)

All Psalms have an historical context.

They were written to record actual events in history, even though they have prophetic messages for the future contained within the Psalm.

This Psalm is often referred to by Bible Scholars as a **“Royal Psalm”**.

The reason for this name is that the Psalm refers to **the Coronation of a Jewish King**.
It also refers to the **rebellion of nations who hoped to gain their freedom**.
This Psalm has its historical context within the nation of Israel.

Israel was ruled directly by the Lord, through His prophets and judges until the nation asked for a King. (**1 Samuel 8**)

God knew all about this when the people appointed Saul as their King.

However, Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin, but God had said in Genesis Chapter 49: v. 10 that the King had to come from the tribe of Judah.

Therefore, King David was **God's choice** to establish the dynasty that would **eventually bring the Messiah, God rescuer, into the world.**

However, Psalm 2 goes beyond King David and talks about a **universal kingdom** and a throne that would be **established forever.**

This could only be fulfilled **in Jesus Christ**, the Son of David. (Matt. 1: v.1)

This Psalm can easily be divided into four sections.

1. The Voice of the Nations. - v. 1-3.
2. The voice of God the Father. - v.4-6.
3. The voice of God the Son. (Jesus) – v. 7-9.
4. The voice of God the Holy Spirit. – v. 10-12.

We are going to start with v. 1-3.

1. The voice of the nations. – v. 1-3.

First of all, the writer of the Psalm, probably David, asks a question.

The question he asks is, **“why are the nations so angry, and why do they waste their time with senseless plans?”**

Today we live in a world that is in total rebellion against God and His word, the Bible.

David is amazed at how people rebel against God.

Today we are amazed too about how people rebel against God.

The Psalmist focuses upon human rebellion in these first three verses.

Human rebellion is expressed in three ways.

- a) **Arrogance** - In v. 2 we are informed about kings and rulers meeting together. They are meeting together to **guide the thoughts and actions of people.**

Today we live in a world that is trying to **influence your mind.**

Television, films, Facebook, Twitter, books, education through schools, colleges and Universities.

Whether you like it or not, the world leaders and rulers **have a powerful influence upon your mind.**

Let me give you an example from the U.K.

In 1885 it was against the law in the U.K. for men to commit sexual acts together.

The punishment was life in prison.

Most people at the time believed that it was wrong, not because the Bible said so but because they were **influenced by civil law.**

In 1967 another law was passed which **sort of decriminalised sexual acts between men, unless it was in a public place.**

They could do it in private provided they were over 18, but never in public.

Public opinion was starting to change, and this type of behaviour was acceptable provided it was done in private.

Today things are different.

In 2005 a law was passed enabling gay marriages and also the right for people to change their gender from **male to female or female to male.**

About two years ago a big survey was made in the U.K. and 90% of those who were surveyed supported both gay marriages and people's choices **to do what they wish.**

In just over 100 years, **the minds of the people in the U.K. have changed completely.**

They have changed because they have **been influenced by the leaders of the U.K.**
This influence has come through both a change in Law, through T.V., films etc.
I can honestly say that most of the leaders and people of influence in the U.K. are **continuing to rebel against God and His word.**

This gay movement and changing your sexual gender is a direct rebellion against **God and his Word.**

This is just one thing. There are many other things too.

Not only is this human rebellion expressed in **“Arrogance”**, it is also expressed in

b) **Antagonism.**

It is very important to note that this Psalm informs us that this open rebellion is expressed against the God of the Bible (Jehovah) and His anointed, **who is Jesus Christ.**

The opposition is not against “Theism”, that is the belief in many gods.

It is not directed against religion.

The opposition is directed against the God who is revealed in the Bible.

Today in this world, you can promote any religion that you like, **except Christianity.** This is when **people get angry.**

The reason for this is because we are all born with a self-centred human nature.

We don’t want human laws to restrict our behaviour.

The reason that in general Christianity is not popular today is **that Jesus Christ demands submission to His Lordship.**

Rebellious human beings **do not want to acknowledge God as their Lord.**

Is this your position today?

Are you holding back on becoming a Christian because you do not want to **surrender your life to Jesus Christ?**

I can only encourage you that it is **better to be a servant in Heaven** than to be a **King in Hell.**

Thirdly human rebellion expresses itself in

c) **“Anarchy”**

In the N.L.T. it says in v. 3 **“let us break their chains, they cry, and free ourselves from slavery to God.”**

People today want to break the boundaries and limits that God has set for us.

The Bible teaches us in **Genesis Chapter 1: v. 26 that God made all of us in his own image.**

Because of this mankind has certain **moral obligations.**

God has set these limits so that **we can enjoy life, have freedom and fulfilment.**

Just as the “fish” finds its freedom within the water in which it is made to live, and just as the piano player finds freedom for expressing his musical skills set by the keys of the piano, **so mankind finds his and her freedom within the limits set by the God of the Bible.**

Freedom does not mean that we are free from all regulations.

God knows what is best for his created people.

The Psalmist tells us in v. 3 that most people try to break free from God’s rules. They think by doing this that they will be free, **but actually they find themselves in bondage.** They find themselves in a **worst condition.**

A famous British poet called Coleridge had a friend who did not believe in giving his child a good Christian education. His philosophy was to let the child have **freedom to do and think as he chose best.**

So one day Coleridge invited his friend to his home.

He asked his friend to come and look at his garden.

Half of his garden was very beautiful. It had lovely flowers, no weeds, and neatly cut grass. **It was wonderful to look at.**

His friend said to him, that is great, **but what happened to the other half? It’s in a mess, full of ugly weeds and it doesn’t look attractive.**

Ahh!!! Said Coleridge. I decided to let this half of my garden have complete liberty to make its own decisions without any of my influence.

I wanted to try and help you to re-think your philosophy about bringing up your child without Christian influence, before it is too late.
The man looked at Coleridge and said, "**I get your point**".

2. **The voice of God the Father – v. 4-6.**

So how does the God of the Bible respond to all of this rebellion?

The Psalmist says that God responds in 3 clear ways.

- a) **Firstly, God laughs.** V. 4. - In our human make up we laugh for two reasons.

Firstly, we laugh because something is funny. Secondly we laugh because something is impossible.

It is the second laugh that the Psalmist wants to communicate to us.

God laughs in heaven in the context of a position of **strength and absolute control**.

God laughs at people who try to change both **the way they were created and the way they try to live their lives without Him**.

- b) **Secondly God speaks in His wrath** - v. 5. – When we do not listen to the voice of God's love, then God will speak to us in His judgement.

God speaks to us through our circumstances. Many people become Christians, sometimes after a life-time of rebellion.

They have tried to live their life without God, but it hasn't given them any peace, or any real fulfillment.

God gives people over to their sin and ultimately it results in judgement.

People who want to live their own lives without God, end up like a garden of weeds. It is not beautiful.

- c) **Finally, the voice of God speaks through His King – v. 6.** – The King referred to here is Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah.

This is a Messianic Psalm and it shows that God has already set up His kingdom through Jesus Christ.

At the time that David wrote this Psalm, as far as God was concerned, He had already set up His Kingdom in Jesus Christ.

God's answer to human rebellion is Jesus Christ.

David was God's choice to be the King of Israel at that time in history.

Today, God's choice for the world-wide, universal King, is Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Mark 1:v.15

¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Revelation 11: v.15.

¹⁵Then 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!"

Today God's kingdom is invisible, to some extent, but one day, according to Revelation, it will be visible.

The question we need to ask ourselves is which kingdom we are in today.

Is it God's Kingdom, or the kingdom of the world, run and controlled by Satan?

Ephesians 2: v. 1-3. (N.L.T.)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

It is only the gospel message of God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, that can provide the answer to the rebellion of mankind today.

Ephesians 2: v. 4-10. (N.L.T.)

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

3. The voice of God, the Son. - v. 7-9. - The Psalmist tells us three things about Jesus Christ.

- a) **The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ** - In the A.V. and N.K.J. the word used to describe Jesus Christ is that fact that He has been "**begotten**" by God.

This is an interesting old English word.

The word means to bring forth out of pre-existing substance.

In the original Greek -Translation it is clear that this word means, **the only one of its kind.**

In other words, **it is unique.**

So therefore the Psalmist is saying that Jesus Christ has come forth from God, He is a part of the Trinity of God, and He is unique, there is no other person like Him.

- b) **The second thing the Psalmist tells us about Jesus Christ is His Universal authority. – v. 8.**

God promised Jesus Christ, authority **over ALL the nations of this world.**

This is the basis for world evangelism. We can declare the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world because Jesus can save people, all over the world.

Matthew 28: v. 18-19.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore^[a] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- c) **The third thing the Psalmist tells us is that ultimately Jesus Christ will have the victory over all the nations one day. – v. 9.**

The "Rod" mentioned here is the shepherd's "Rod".

Jesus is the Shepherd King.

If people will not submit to His authority willingly, then the Shepherd's crook will become **a rod of iron.**

Ultimately, willingly or unwillingly people will one day submit to the authority of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2: v. 9-11. (N.L.T.)

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4. The voice of God the Holy Spirit – v. 10-12.

In v. 10-12 the Psalmist gives us three important instructions.

These instructions affect our minds, our wills and our emotions.

In other words, the instructions affect our whole person.

a) First of all we are told to be wise and receive instruction. V. 10.

The Psalmist is telling us that if we want to be wise, don't rebel against God and His word, the Bible. We must let the **Bible teach us** in our lives.

Over 30 years ago when I was studying in a Bible College in Edinburgh, Scotland, I learnt many things that were important in our soul winning classes.

One student asked the lecturer, "**How do we know that a person is born again?**"

The teacher replied with two answers, are they "**teachable**" through God's word, and do they "**seek**" Christian fellowship.

He said other things, but those two remain fixed in my mind.

If we claim to be a Christian, our wisdom and instruction comes from the Bible.

Therefore, reading it every day, is not only a wise thing to do, but it actually gives us wisdom.

b) Secondly the Psalmist says, commit yourself to serving Jesus – v. 11.

When it says "serve the Lord with fear", it is talking about a **Holy fear**.

Basically serving the Lord is saying **NO to your will and YES to God's will**.

I once heard a message preached by the late Stephen Olford.

He preached on 1 Corinthians Chapter 15: v. 58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

He said something I haven't forgotten.

It is in relation to "**always abounding in the work of the Lord**".

Stephen Olford said that there was a difference between doing work **for the Lord and doing the work of the Lord**.

Doing the work of the Lord involves a surrender to God's will and an empowering from the Holy Spirit for this work.

We need to totally rely on God's Holy Spirit.

It is His work.

However, working for the Lord can be **done by anybody, but it may not achieve or have any spiritual value**.

It costs your life to do the work of the Lord.

Are you willing to surrender your life to do the work of the Lord?

c) The third instruction we have from the Holy Spirit is to let our emotions be consecrated.

In the ancient world, rulers would show their obedience to their king by kissing his hand or his cheek.

Judas kissed Jesus in the garden, but it meant nothing.

However, our emotions towards Jesus, need to mean something.

This is what the Psalmist is getting at here.

The question I need to ask you is this.

Are your emotions stirred for Jesus Christ?

By that I mean – **Is Jesus real for you?**

When I first became a Christian I could not give my testimony without tears.

The reason for this is that by telling my story, it stirred up in me the emotions of the day **when Jesus became real for me**.

Q. Is Jesus "real" for you?

If not He can be, and He can be today.

The Psalmist closes with the words "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him".

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ today, you will be blessed for all eternity.