

Psalm 2

Psalms 2:1-2 [NIV] *“Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.”*

This is one of the “*Messianic*” Psalms because the prophetic descriptions of Jesus the Messiah, His life, death, resurrection and in this Psalm His future reign over all the earth’s kingdoms.

King David was a shepherd, soldier, king and also a prophet. [**Acts 2:29-30**]

This Psalm describes the rebellion of the nations against Jesus Christ at His Second Coming to establish His eternal reign over the earth.

Just as the New Testament sees the Christian as opposed by the ungodly world [**John 15:19**] and its rulers [**Ephesians 6:12**], both physical and spiritual, so here we see God’s universal purpose for His anointed Son, and all humanity under attack from the rulers of this world and their deceived people.

Historically the object of their attack was God’s anointed King David [**1 Samuel 24:6**] but prophetically it was God’s Messiah, God’s Son Jesus Christ. [**Acts 4:25-27**]

We are told in this Psalm who are adversaries to Jesus Christ. As this world is at present the kingdom of Satan [**2 Corinthians 4:4**] all unconverted people of every rank, party and character, are stirred up by Satan to oppose the plan of God for all humanity.

The reason is that the truths and precepts of Christianity are against ambitious projects and worldly lusts, of both leaders and people.

Psalms 2:3 [NIV] *“‘Let us break their chains,’ they say, ‘and throw off their fetters.’”*

We are told what the aim of those in opposition are in this verse.

They want to break asunder the bands of conscience, and the cords of God’s Commandments, they will **not** receive them, but cast them away as far as they can.

These enemies of Jesus Christ can show **no** good cause for opposing Jesus Christ’s just and holy government, which if received by all people would bring the peace on earth that all humanity really desire.

People are deceived into thinking that they will be free if they can get away from God’s influence. [**Genesis 3:1-6**]

Yet we all inevitably serve someone or some thing, whether a human leader, an organisation or even our selfish desires.

We can **only** be free if we allow God to mould us into the person He created us to be, a created child of His with His character.

Psalms 2:4 [NIV] *“The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.”*

God laughs, **not** at the people, but at their confused thoughts about power. God knows the boundaries of power that nations and their people have.

They can have **no** hope of success in opposing Jesus Christ who has all power both in heaven and earth given to Him. [**Matthew 28:18**]

Our world has many leaders who boast of their power and promise their people many things. They forget that the life [power] they have comes from the Creator God and that He can take it from them at any time. They boast of their personal power but in reality they are totally in God's hands.

Psalms 2:5 [NIV] *“Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,”*

The word “then” signifies the termination of the age of human freedom and the establishment of divine purpose on the earth.

So sure is this appointed climax of human rule that the Creator God does **not** hesitate to allow centuries to the rebellious nations so that all their plans may mature and fail. All their objections to His rule may be voiced and every resistance attempted.

In this the Creator God is governed by His own merciful desire to save humanity from its own foolishness.

2 Peter 3:8-9 [NIV] *“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

God's absolute justice never pronounces a judgement before people have by their own deeds made themselves ripe for judgement.

Genesis 15:16 [NIV] *“... for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”*

Matthew 24:22 [NIV] *“If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”*

God will only take over the rule of this earth when **all** human efforts at rulership have brought all of humanity to the point of self-destruction.

Only then in the “fullness of time” the Creator God intervenes with anger and wrath.

Romans 1:18-20 [NIV] *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

This anger is mainly directed against the leaders both secular and religious who have suppressed the truth from the people.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 [NIV] *“Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for [that day will not come] until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”*

Only when certain events have happened, which God has foretold, will God intervene, showing that He is in total control. Even using deceived Satan and his deceived servants to bring about His will. The goal is to eventually bring **all** people to a point of repentance.

Romans 2:4 [NIV] *“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realising that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?”*

Paul recognises this as the kindness, tolerance and patience of our Creator God.

Psalms 2:6 [NIV] *“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”*

This emphasises the divine purpose and total control of God the Father. It also points towards a person and the place.

Hebrews 1:1-3 [NIV] *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ is the King and Spokesman of God the Father, and heir of all things that He originally created and has sustained.

Zechariah 14:3-9 [NIV] *“Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or night-time, a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.”*

A dramatic start to the rulership of Jesus Christ on earth at His Second Coming.

Psalms 2:7 [NIV] *“I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’”*

Jesus Christ’s kingship is authorised by God the Father on the grounds of relationship. [**Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5**]

Romans 1:1-4 [NIV] *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God the Father through His resurrection.

Hebrews 5:5-6 [NIV] *“So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’ And he says in another place, ‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’”*

This is associated with the incarnation and priesthood of Jesus Christ as Son of God.

Psalms 2:8 [NIV] *“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.”*

The promised gift of the peoples and realms of this world has been the expectation of the long waited for Messiah by the prophets of Israel.

Psalms 2:9 [NIV] *“You will rule them with an iron sceptre; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”*

The enemies of Jesus Christ will be subject to His terrible power, *“iron sceptre”* indicates the severity of this rebuke. [**Job 4:9; Revelation 2:27; Revelation 19:11-16**]

All this points to the events that will herald and be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time to rule all He died to save at His First Coming.

Psalms 2:10-12 [NIV] *“Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”*

This will be a time of decision for all who have survived the *“tribulation”* that is the outpoured wrath of the returned Creator God, Jesus Christ.

Sadly, this is **not** the side of Jesus Christ that is powerfully preached today. Jesus Christ is more than a *“Lamb of God”* who was sacrificed for the sins of all humanity, He is also *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* [**Revelation 19:16**] and leader of armies of angelic beings returning with Him from heaven. [**Revelation 19:14**]

The leaders of the world, both secular and religious, are being warned in advance by these verses in this Psalm to respond to the return of Jesus Christ in two ways.

“Fear” – this applies to all who have rejected Jesus Christ and His Word, the Christian Bible. [**Revelation 6:15-17**]

“Rejoice” – this is the response of all who have been longing for the return of Jesus Christ to eradicate all the evil that has been causing all humanity so much pain.

“Trembling” – for the day of judgement has come for all Christians and those who have heard the Gospel Message and rejected the rule of Jesus Christ in their lives, the trembling applies to both groups.

“Kiss the Son” refers to total submission to the authority of Jesus Christ in an act of worship and honouring Him. [**John 5:22-23**]

The only safe place, both physically and spiritually, at this time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, is to put your trust in Him now.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The person who is applying this in their lives now are already placing their trust in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ will then respond to this trust by protecting them on the day of His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:30-31 [NIV] *“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

Jesus Christ Himself has promised all who are His true disciples will have His personal protection at His Second Coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

This was the same promise made to the Christians at Thessalonica who were experiencing persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. We in this generation can also expect trials and troubles as we live Christian lives. We need to stand firm in our faith strengthened by the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Please meditate on what we have just studied, for it could mean the difference between God’s wrath or God’s protection at the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Matthew 24:36-39 [NIV] *“No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”*

Don’t be like those who ignored the preaching of Noah and died in the flood which was the response of the Creator God to all the evil that was in the world at that time, as there is in our generation.
Genesis 6:11-13]