

Psalm 2

Tonight we'll be making our way through what's referred to as a "Messianic" psalm. Though Ps Ch 2 has definite immediate interpretation with regard to the things that were happening in David's life; primarily what we'll be seeing and stopping to consider is the Messianic implications and applications that apply specifically to Christ. As I mentioned the book of Psalms is the "Him-book" of the scriptures, so many of them painting such an intimate portrait of Christ.

Now as to where the 1st Psalm isn't quoted at all in the NT the 2nd Ps is quoted or alluded to more than any other Psalm in the NT, some 18 or more times. It's prophetic in nature revolving around the rule and the reign of JESUS CHRIST at the coming of His Kingdom.

Now I mentioned to you that David wrote this Ps but as you look at it or read through it you won't find where any credit is given to David in Ps Ch 2. How then can we know that he wrote it? Well, because when you get to the NT in the book of Acts perhaps you remember Peter and John on the way to the temple at the hour of prayer seeing a man lame from his mother's womb was sitting there at the gate begging alms. and He looked eyes with Peter, and Peter said, "Hey, silver and gold I don't have, but what I do have I give to you; in the name of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth stand up and walk." and Peter grabbed him up and his ankles received strength and he went about walking, and leaping and praising God. Well as you might imagine that presented quite a ministry opportunity, people gathered around, wanted to find out what was happening, what was going on. and Peter used it as an opportunity to share the gospel and point people to Christ. Well, that got him and John arrested, and they were threatened and told that they better not be preaching anymore in the name of Jesus. So when they let them go (finding no way of really punishing them) they went back to their friends and told them everything that happened. and We read, "So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.'" Acts 4:24-26 So the Holy Spirit through the apostle Peter tells us very plainly right there that these words in Ps 2 were uttered by the mouth of David. David wrote Ps 2. So with that we begin here in Vs 1.

Vs1-3

David begins this Ps with a question, a question that every believer at some time seems to be mystified by, we find ourselves puzzled and perplexed. In the world it seems to make perfect sense, in the Lord there's no good answer. "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?" Why do people get all uptight and find themselves in an uproar, the plot a pointless thing. and That word "plot" or "devise" is the same exact word that we've been running into lately and trying to really soak in ourselves found back in the 2nd Vs of the 1st Ps, it's the word "meditate." The godly, the righteous spend their time seeking to meditate, and contemplate, muse through and study the word of God, we want to carefully consider

the person of JESUS CHRIST (we've been talking about this lately). The ungodly, the worldly spend their time thinking about, musing through, carefully considering something else. and For all that it's empty, it's a vain thing, it's futile in its nature, it's for nothing, it's completely pointless and unprofitable. There's no reason for it, and there's no benefit in it.

Yet it's such a priority, such a pointed problem in the minds of men that kings of the earth set themselves, and rulers take counsel together regarding it.

What's the problem? What's the predicament? What's the priority that mankind sets his mind on? Breaking the bonds in pieces and casting away the cords of the LORD and of His Anointed. That word "Anointed" there is the Hebrew word for "Messiah" translated into the Greek comes the word, "Christos" from where we get our word "Christ." People want to cast off all restraint and not be "burdened" by having the LORD and His Anointed (God the Father and God the Son) reigning in righteousness over them. "We will not have the Man reign over us," is the cry of this world regarding the Lord God Almighty and/or JESUS CHRIST His Son.

Notice we read that the kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together. There's something in the heart of man from the time of the tower of Babel seems to think that there's strength in numbers against the Lord. The nations rage against Him, this could be the epitaph written across the tombstone of our nation, along with every other nation really. We want God out of the schools, we want His word out of our courts, we want to ban prayer at any public function, we want "In God we trust" off our currency. Why do the nations rage, wanting to cast off the headship of the LORD and of His Christ? There is something so deceptive, so destructive, so twisted about the nature of sin that it actually convinces people that the Lord is a bondage bringer. But God is not a bondage bringer, He's a bondage breaker, Jesus came to set the captives free, to free us from the bondage of sin and death, the one the Son sets free is free indeed. The bible says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Cor 3:17 But I'm here to tell you that it's really not "liberty" that people want, they want license. They want free roam to sin, serve themselves, indulge their flesh, do what they want, when they want, with whomever they way and have no ramifications. They want to be left to sow with out having to reap, they want out from under any sense of accountability and responsibility for the choices they make to serve their own unbridled lusts.

But listen, saying, "I don't want the rules, or restrictions that God places on me. I want to be free to move about uninhibited by any restraint." Is like unto me going out there and cutting the brake lines on everyone's car because it's not right for you to be held back like that, you need to be free to move around uninhibited, unrestricted with out barriers or brakes. Hey, that's not true freedom, that's suicide. But that's what people want from the Lord, "Hey God just cut the brake lines I need to be free." It's spiritual suicide; the bonds of Christ are the bonds of love, of concern and compassion. As parents you place certain restrictions on your kids, there's a reason you say, "Don't chase a ball out into the street," How dare you bridle their freedom in such ways, they need to be let go, experience life on their terms.

That's hogwash, you love them, you're not about to turn loose of them, let them do what they want, when they want, however they want. They'll destroy themselves, so to with the Lord. Why do people want out from under His love, His grace, His mercy, they plot, they plan, they premeditate their moves and it's only to their own destruction. But sin rebels against God's righteousness.

Now, more specifically when did the nations rage against the LORD and against His Christ? Well, I alluded to it a couple minutes ago when sighting for you how we know that David wrote this Psalm. Peter saw the application at the very planning and plotting, Jew and Gentile nations coming together in the standing against and crucifixion of Christ. You remember we spoke of Acts Ch 4 when Peter quoted this Ps in a prayer for further boldness. Well I quoted Vs 24-26 to you. Vs 27 and 28 follows up on this quote regarding the Lord and His Christ and says, "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done." Acts 4:27-29

So Peter saw both fulfillment and application of this Ps right there when the nations came together in standing against Christ and God's plan through Him and rather than magnify Him they crucified Him. Now we also realize that the purpose God in the forgiveness of sin was a predetermined plan, it was the "purpose" of His hand. But they raged against Him, and plotted to destroy Him nonetheless.

Now there's another time the bible Chronicles for us that is yet to take place when the kings of the earth and rulers will take counsel against the Lord and seek to break His "bonds" and cast away His cords, rebelling against His rule and that is at what the bible refers to as the battle of Armageddon. When the nations will seek to stand against the LORD and against His Anointed, His Christ, but once again it'll be an effort in futility. How much better to simply receive the rule of JESUS CHRIST over our hearts, over our lives, than to resist it, rebel against it, try and escape it. Believe me you want to be for Him, not against Him.

So there's application of this principle all throughout human history, from the time of the fall man has tried to get out from under any accountability to God. We see specific illumination of this Psalm fulfilled in the crucifixion, nations raging against the LORD and His Christ, we see present application in the world today, the people of the earth, in this nation trying to exempt God from the equation, socially, academically, scientifically, morally, philosophically and on and on. But then we'll also see a future culmination of all this at the end of the 7 yr Great Tribulation at the battle of Armageddon just prior to the Lord establishing His kingdom upon the earth. and Then we'll see it even one more time before the end, after the 1,000 yr reign of Christ (you can read of that in Rev 20), perhaps we'll touch on it a little more in just a bit. But for some reason, to their own demise, people want out from under God's rule.

Vs4-6

So we're seeing some contrast here. The nations rage, the kings of the earth set themselves (or seek to establish themselves), but He who sits in the heavens laughs, He holds them in derision or ridicule. and Here's what I'm wanting you to see. God in heaven, isn't the least bit worried or finding Himself anxious over the idol threats, planning or plotting of puny man on the earth. He doesn't even get up, He sits in the heavens, not worried about the rage of the nations or the counsel of kings, and rulers of the earth against Him. The bible is clear, "There is no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the Lord." Prov 21:30 and This isn't the laugh of having heard a good joke. It's the laugh of, "You've got to be kidding me..." I couldn't even think of a good illustration, the variance between God and mankind is so vast. How could man ever have the audacity to think that we could ever stand in opposition to God? Yet man tries and tries and tries to "take God on" to rebel against Him and somehow overthrow Him. It's absolutely absurd. How many people have sought to abolish Christianity throughout history? Yet where are they today? A footnote somewhere on the pages of history, yet the name of JESUS CHRIST continues to multiply over the face of the earth, you can't thwart the sovereign purpose of God.

and God sends out the warning, "He shall speak to them in His wrath." He's absolutely just in simply acting, in judging, but this is the mercy of God. He tells us His plan and gives us a choice, we can fall in line or find ourselves cast out of His Kingdom under the full fury of His wrath. God's not willing that any should perish, He wants all to come to repentance, but He must judge sin, or else He's not holy, He's not righteous, but He gives to man a choice, He will speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure.

Vs6

Translation: Nothing will thwart God's plan. It's "set," it's "established" and there's nothing that man is going to do that will in any way alter God's agenda. They may have their little kingdoms, rule over their little nations, but God has set His King on His holy hill of Zion (or Jerusalem). and The fact that nothing is able to obstruct, or frustrate the plan of God is really good news for you and me. Because the bible is also clear that God has a plan for our lives, and that having began a good work in us, He'll be faithful to complete it. Ephesians tells us, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Eph 2:10 God has a plan for you, there is a purpose for which He has saved you and it goes well beyond your personal benefit. and Aren't you glad that when God establishes something, it's "set."? Now I'm not going to say that you can't operate with in the parameters of your free-will, but God has an agenda that there isn't anything we're going to do to get in His way. and Part of that plan has to do with His Son, ruling and reigning over the earth, and He'll sit upon the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem. Rage, whine, gripe, do what you want, it's going to happen.

Vs7-9

This Psalm has been referred to as, "The Drama of the ages" because in it we see different persons saying different things.

At 1st we have man, David asking a question, man raging, people plotting, then we have the reaction and the response of the Father in heaven. He reacts in derision, the audacity of man to stand against Him, He responds by declaring His plan. Then in Vs 7 we hear from the Son, the Anointed One, repeating what He's heard from the Father, "I will declare the decree, the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'"

Of course having just gone over all this in Hebrews it's already in the forefront of your heart and mind exactly what this is talking about. It declares a couple of things. 1st of all it speaks of the deity of Jesus, because you can't beget something you're not. I may create, or make a statue or whatever, but when I beget, I beget humanity, because I'm a human. I don't beget an animal, or a fish, or anything else because that's not what I am. When God "begets" it's a reference to the fact that Jesus is God, He's of the same essential nature and being as God because He is God. Jesus is fully God, the only begotten of the Father. He's not created, all things were created through Him and with out Him nothing was made that was made, He's eternal in nature. Oh there's a time in history that He robed Himself in humanity, but He's eternal in nature, He's the sovereign God of the universe.

Now having said that we also realize that this phrase, "Today I have begotten You," has nothing to do with the virgin womb of Mary, but it has to do with the virgin tomb of Joseph of Arimathea when the Father brought Jesus forth from the dead. Remember when Paul was preaching there in Antioch (Acts 13). and He shared the gospel, spoke of the necessity of the word of God being fulfilled in the crucifixion of Christ, and how that when they'd fulfilled what was spoken of Him they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. and He said, "But God raised Him from the dead." and He said, "And we declare to you glad tidings — that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'" Acts 13:32-34 So this reference to, "Today I have begotten You." Looked forward not to the birth of Christ regarding the human instrument of Mary, but to the resurrection of Christ being as it were the 1st born from the dead, begotten and brought forth from the dead. (This is amazing stuff) In Vs 8-9 we see a promise given to Him by the Father.

Vs8-9

Vs 8 is often times used in a missionary context, in reality it has nothing to do with missions. "Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." This looks forward to the millennial kingdom of Christ whereby He will rule and reign on the earth in righteousness for 1,000 yrs. He will receive the nations for His inheritance, and the ends of the earth for His possession. We will rule and reign upon the earth with Him in lesser roles as kings and priests to our God.

Of course this aspect of the prophetic portion of the Ps is still to be fulfilled. Jesus is awaiting His inheritance with respect to this part of God's plan.

But when Christ returns (after the 7 yr Great Tribulation of Revelation 6-19) the bible says that He will gather the nations before Him. There will be those who live through that period who never receive the mark of the beast, and they'll make it through, they'll see the return of Christ. and We read that He will separate the nations before Him as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. Leave the 2nd Ps turn to Matt 25 (Vs 31-46)

Jesus will restore the earth, establish His kingdom and rule the earth for 1,000 yrs in absolute righteousness (Rev 20). That's what we're reading of here in Vs 9, "You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Righteousness will be forced, now you'll have your glorified body, nothing to worry about, ruling and reigning with Christ. But those who enter this age coming out of the Tribulation will still have this body, Satan will be bound for the 1,000 yrs but humanity still has this sin nature to contend with. Longevity of life will be restored, Isaiah 65 says that a child will die at 100 yrs of age. So you can imagine the population explosion during that time. But if someone steps out of line, it will be dealt with swiftly and immediately in righteousness. Right now God is pleading with man through the cross of Christ to be reconciled by His grace, at that time Jesus will rule and reign in sovereign righteousness. If one steps out of line, follows the impulse of the flesh in a sinful manner, "dashed to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now, after the thousand yrs the bible teaches that Satan will again be released, no one has known anything in the world but perfect righteousness, it's been a forced issue, no choice involved. Satan will once again provide that choice, and it's sad but the bible says that he will deceive as many as of the sands of the seashore. Men will once again choose the wages of sin over the blessing of obedience and righteousness. and They'll be deceived into thinking that they can break the bonds and cast off the cords of the Lord and the nations will once again rage against Him. Look at Rev 20 (Vs 7-10) Once that's happened the white throne judgment will occur, the book of life will be opened and anyone who's name isn't found in it will be cast into the lake of fire and that's the 2nd death. But after that a new heaven and a new earth, the tabernacle of God will be with men, He will dwell with them and they shall be His people, God Himself will be with them and be their God. and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. and We'll all live happily ever after, but there's a lot yet to take place between now and that time.

Vs10-12

Here we have the plea of the Holy Spirit. "Be wise, Be instructed, serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling." Don't resist the Lord, receive the Lord, submit and surrender to the Lord, serve the Lord, it doesn't make sense to stand in opposition to Him, to rage against Him. There's no refuge from Him, only in Him.

Vs12

"Kiss the Son." Another way of saying surrender to Him, give your affection, your allegiance to Him.

Of course the word “worship” in the Greek, “Proskuneo” means “to turn toward and kiss” and so there are definite overtones of worship in this. Worship Him, give yourself fully to Him, don’t kick against Him.

“Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” Those who defy God will be broken, dashed as a potter’s vessel, those who depend upon God will be blessed. The bible says, “You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.” Isa 26:3 There’s no blessing for those who trust in man, who trust in money, who trust in government, or whatever, the blessing goes out to those who trust in the Lord. He who believes in Him will by no means be put to shame. “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

Prayer Points:

Lord may You teach us to trust fully and completely in You, we so often seem to struggle in this area, Lord increase our faith. We thank You for the richness of Your Word, help us that we not resist You, or rage against You. But submit fully and surrender to You. We’re so thankful that You have a plan and there’s nothing man can do to oppose it with stand it or in anyway come against it. and We look forward to the day that Jesus You rule the earth in righteousness. Help us to love on You, and serve You with fear, and rejoice with trembling all the more. Draw us near to Yourself.