

Psalm 2
The Coronation of the King

- I What the psalm says.
- A. Appears to be a personal lament written by David.
1. It is a coronation song.
 2. It may have been sung during the coronation of the kings of Judah.
- B. Four stanzas or strophes.
1. The first stanza (verses 1-3) speaks of the plans of the kings and rulers.
 - a) David was surrounded by those who hated him and Israel. Throughout his reign he fought many battles to consolidate the kingdom and conquer the land that God have given to Israel.
 - b) Verse 3: The nations, peoples, kings and rulers did not want to accept David authority as a king appointed by God to rule over them.
 - 1) They were in an uproar – the word means a violent noise of a mob rule.
 - 2) They were “devising a vain thing” – the word devising means to mutter – as those who sit in the background and mutter under their breathe how to take control.
 - 3) The kings “of the earth take their stand...” The same word is used of Goliath, the giant Philistine who would come out every morning for 40 days and “take his stand” and taunt Israel. Until David killed him in the name of the God of Israel.
 - 4) They are not only against God, but against His anointed one. The Hebrew word is messiach, or Messiah
 2. The second stanza speaks of the sovereign rule of God in the heavens.
 - a) David says that in spite of the plotting and planning of the world, God’s plan will happen.
 - b) God sits (is enthroned) in the heavens and He laughs at those who plot against His king.
 - c) This is the only time in Scripture where God is said to laugh and it is not a laughter of joy; it is a laughter of divine derision.
 - d) In verse 5 David says there will come a time when God will speak to those who plot against His king. **“Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury...”**
 - e) There will come a time for divine justice.
 - f) Then, in verse 6, David speaks for God who details His divine action.
 - 1) God says “I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.
 - 2) The word installed means literally to pour out, as when the king was anointed with oil.
 - (a) Zion was the southernmost hill in the city of Jerusalem. It was the highest hill in the city.
 - (b) Zion was where David built an altar to God and where he placed the Ark of the Covenant after it was returned by the Philistines.
 3. The third stanza is the proclamation of the king anointed by God and called His Son.
 - a) The word decree means a law or statute.
 - b) The king was required to write out a copy of the Law of Moses so that he would know what was in it and would faithfully declare it to the people of God.
 4. The fourth stanza is a warning by David to worship YHWH.
 - a) Worship means to serve – all should serve God and do His commands.
 - b) Rejoice literally means to revolve, to dance in a circle, to exult.

- II What the psalm actually means.
- A. The psalm cannot be about David and his kingdom.
1. David was never crowned king in Jerusalem or on Mt. Zion.
 2. Jerusalem was ruled by the Jebusites and only conquered by David after he became king.
 3. The psalm does not speak of David because he never received the nations as his inheritance or the ends of the earth as his possession.
- B. The psalm is a prophecy of David about God's true King, Jesus Christ.
1. Acts 4:23-29: **And when (Peter and John) had been released, they went to their own companions, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is Thou who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? 'The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord, and against His Christ.' "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.**
 - a) The nations or Gentiles were there. The peoples or Israelites were there. The king, Herod was there. The ruler, Pontius Pilate was there.
 - b) They were all gathered in Jerusalem against God's King, Jesus Christ.
 - c) They hated Him and refused to accept His authority as the Heavenly King.
 2. JFB Commentary: "The easy yoke of Jesus seems to natural men a galling chain. The law of Yahweh, and especially the Gospel law of Messiah... is to the ungodly insufferable bondage..." Yet, to the godly, the Law is a delight and something upon which to meditate day and night (Psalm 1:2).
 3. Calvin: "Let this therefore, be held is a settled point, that all who do not submit themselves to the authority of Christ make war against God.
 4. C. H. Spurgeon: "We have, in these first three verses, a description of the hatred of human nature against the Christ of God."
- C. The psalm is a prophecy of David about God's True Son, Jesus Christ.
1. Mt. 3:17: And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
 2. Paul makes the point very clearly in his presentation of the Gospel to the Jews at Pisidian Antioch.
Acts 13:32-33: "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'
- III The application in our lives.
- A. The futility of rebellion.
1. The Why of verse 1 is emphatic.
 - a) It is really asking two questions.
 - b) Why are the nations in an uproar?
 - c) Why are the peoples devising a vain thing?
 2. God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.
 - a) God sees and hears everything you are doing at every moment.
 - b) You cannot hide from God in the darkness or the corners or the back rooms.

3. God sits in the heavens and laughs in derision. He scoffs at the puny efforts of men to rebel.
- B. The call to repentance.
1. Verse 10: **Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth.**”
 - a) Show discernment is really – be wise.
 - b) Wisdom means more than simple intellectual acceptance. It means to acknowledge who God, to repent, and to worship Him.
- C. The command to worship.
1. Worship is not simply enjoyment. It not “getting your spiritual battery recharged on a Sunday morning.
 - a) Worship is **WORK**.
 - b) WCF, Chap. XXI, para. V: “The...conscionable hearing of the word, in obedience unto God...(is part)...of the ordinary worship of God.
 - c) The command is to serve/worship YHWH with fear or reverence.
 - 1) God is NOT your buddy who is happy you are here whether you want to be or not.
 - 2) God is the Creator of the universe and all we know. He expects and deserves your attention in worship.
 2. We should also serve/worship God and rejoice with trembling.
 - a) Barnes’ Notes: We should “...welcome the purposes of YHWH, and exult in his reign, but it should be done with a suitable apprehension of his majesty and power...”
 - b) Worship is not coming to see your friends or network to set up your next deal.
 - c) Worship is rejoicing that you can come before the God of the universe because of what He did through His Son Jesus Christ.
 3. Worship is paying homage to the Son.
 - a) NASB verse 12: “**Do homage to the Son...**”
 - b) Hebrew is literally, **kiss the son**.
 - c) The kiss was a way of showing respect for one of superior rank (I Sam. 10:1 – Samuel kissed David after anointing him as king).
 - d) Pay homage...**lest He become angry, and you perish in the way**.
 4. There will come a time for Divine Justice (verse 5)
 - a) God will speak in anger against those who have not bowed the knee to His King.
 - b) God will **terrify** them in His fury – literally cause them to quake with fear.
 - c) Jonathan Edwards sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
- D. The blessing in Christ.
1. He completed the perfect life that God requires to get into heaven.
 2. He suffered the eternal punishment that God requires for those who rebel.
 3. In Christ, the True King of God , the King who reigns forever, we can have perfect peace and happiness.
 4. Ancient Eastern approach to the king.
 5. I pray that each one will hear those beautiful words, “Well done, My good and faithful servant. Enter into My kingdom.