

Expository Breakdown of Psalm 2

(Psalm 2:1-12 NASB), “Why are the nations restless And the peoples plotting in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let’s tear their shackles apart and throw their ropes away from us!” 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” 7 “I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have fathered You. 8 Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’” 10 Now then, you kings, use insight; Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with reverence And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish on the way, For His wrath may be kindled quickly. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

I. Introduction & Overview

- a. Psalm 2 is a concise overview of the end of the age conflict against Jesus’ Leadership. It is one of the most important prophetic scriptures for the Church to grasp in this hour. This Psalm puts a bright spotlight on Jesus and His leadership specifically at the end of the age. A firm grasp on Psalm 2 will enable the Church to respond rightly to: *1) Jesus’ leadership at the end of the age 2) the coming (and current) rage of the nations.*
- b. This Psalm consists of four distinct parts:

Part 1 (Psalm 2:1-3): The Rage of The Nations – The Nations will rage against Jesus because they believe His ways are a restraint. The raging nations will throw the restraint of Biblical values off and operate in the fullness of wickedness and sin.

Part 2 (Psalm 2:4-6): The Father’s Response – The Father is not worried about or threatened by the rage of the nations. In His infinite wisdom, He installed His Son (Jesus), as King of the Nations.

Part 3 (Psalm 2:7-9): Jesus’ Response – The leadership of Jesus begins with His own intercession, and finds fulfillment in His true and righteous judgment on the nations.

Part 4 (Psalm 2:10-12): David’s Exhortation To Be Wise - The only worthy response of the wise to the leadership of Jesus is to serve Him with reverence and rejoice with the fear of the Lord. We are to “Kiss the Son” and take refuge in Him.

II. Part 1: The Rage Of The Nations (Psalm 2:1-3)

- a. God shows David the coming rage of the nations toward the end of the age. The kings of the earth will take their stand against the leadership of Jesus and His biblical standards of morality. The wicked rulers of the earth will try to cast off biblical standards because they view them as a restraint. Once they conspire against God and do away with biblical morality, they will operate in the fullness of wickedness and sin while also empowering the rest of the unsaved people to do the same.

(Psalm 2:1-3 NASB), “Why are the nations restless [Why do the nations rage] And the peoples plotting in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let’s tear their shackles apart and throw their ropes away from us!”

- b. ***Why are the nations restless [rage]:*** The nations will rage in furious anger specifically against Jesus and His leadership. It will be a scene characterized by chaotic commotion in the culture.
- c. ***Peoples plotting in vain:*** People at every level of society will devise schemes and develop strategies to lead multitudes in resistance against the leadership of Jesus.

1. The Hebrew word for “plotting – *haga*” is used other places for: to roar, growl, groan, utter, speak, meditate, devise, muse, or imagine.
2. *Because there is no worthy accusation against the leadership of Jesus, the nations will devise imaginative stories against the leadership of Jesus and deceive multitudes of people.*

(Proverbs 24:1-2 NASB), “Do not be envious of evil people, Nor desire to be with them; 2 For their minds plot violence, And their lips talk of trouble.”

- d. ***The kings of the earth take their stand:*** The rulers of the earth will firmly stand against Jesus and His leadership without remorse.
 1. The “kings of the earth” are not just a reference to political leaders, but also to leaders in every sphere of society include entertainment, sports, art, religion, etc...
- e. ***The rulers conspire together:*** The rulers of the earth in every sphere of society will systematically conspire in unity against Jesus. Leaders from different religions, political backgrounds, and philosophies will lay aside their differences in order to come against the leadership of Jesus.
- f. ***Against the Lord and against His anointed:*** The rage of the nations will be openly directed against the Lord (the God of Israel) and His anointed (Jesus).
- g. ***Let’s tear their shackles apart and throw their ropes away from us:*** The mission of the rulers of the earth will be to remove the influence of God’s Word from the earth. They look at the Word of God as shackles that enslave them and ropes that keep them tethered from their selfish ambition.

III. Part 2: The Father’s Response (Psalm 2:4-6)

- a. The Father is not threatened or worried about the rage of the nations. He laughs with confidence at their plans to conspire against Him, and then He responds to their hostility by making known His anger toward them. He tells them that He’s installed His king on the throne, and despite what they devise, His king will not be overthrown.

(Psalm 2:4-6 NASB), “He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

- b. ***He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them:*** The one who is seated high above every other king is not intimidated by the kings of the earth. He sits back and laughs at their conspiracies. His response is to scoff at (mock) them.
- c. ***Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury:*** Though He laughs at the restlessness of the nations, He too is involved and is angry. The Father will not tolerate the wickedness of the leaders who have set their hearts against the throne of His son. He will make known His anger against their sin. The nations will be terrified when the Father makes known His fury. We can be confident that when the nations rage, He sees, He knows, and will move.
- d. ***But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain:*** The Father’s primary message to the raging nations is to declare His solution for the restoration of all things: *To enthrone Jesus as King of the nations in Jerusalem.* Jesus is set on His throne in two installments:
 1. He was enthroned at the right hand of the Father at the resurrection.
 2. He will be enthroned on the earth in Jerusalem (Zion, my holy mountain), at the time of His second coming.

IV. Part 3: Jesus' Response (Psalm 2:7-9)

- a. In this scene Jesus declares what the Father has decreed. The Father's primary strategy for Jesus to receive His inheritance in the nations begins with intercession (*Ask it of me*). David got to her a conversation between the Father and the Son, where the father stated, His chosen method for His son to receive what's rightfully due to Him, was to function as the "Great Intercessor" (Hebrews 7:25).

(Psalm 2:7-9 NASB), "I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have fathered You. 8 Ask it of Me, and I will certainly give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

- b. ***I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me...***: When Jesus comes on the scene in Psalm 2 He declares the Father's decree. Jesus is speaking what His Father has told Him to say. Herein lies the mystery and simplicity of intercession: *Say to God what God has told you to say to Him*.
- c. ***Ask it of Me and I will certainly give...***: The Father has instructed His son to ask Him for His inheritance. Jesus is called to intercede for the fulfillment of the promise of the Father. Our intercession is just an extension of the intercession of Jesus. We can be certain if we ask the Father for anything according the nature of Jesus, He will certainly give it.
- d. There are 5 decrees that Jesus uses in His intercession according to Psalm 2. In response to the nations' rage and the plans of the Father, Jesus reminds the Father, and the nations, about the Father's decree over Him was:
1. ***You are My Son***: Jesus declares that His Father has reaffirmed His sonship. The father proclaimed Jesus sonship at His baptism before going to the wilderness (***Matthew 3:17***), and before going to the cross (***Matthew 17:5***).
 2. ***I have fathered You***: Jesus declares that the father has begotten Him. Jesus power and authority is seen in His resurrection and enthronement. The Father is the one who sets Jesus in place as King both at the resurrection and in the age to come.

(Acts 13:32-33 NASB), "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, 33 that God has fulfilled this promise to those of us who are the descendants by raising Jesus..."

3. ***The nations are Your [Jesus'] inheritance***: Because He was slain and purchased people from every nation, tongue, and tribe, the nations belong to Him. In the age to come He will literally sit on a throne as the ruler over every nations and will be openly received as King of the earth.
4. ***The Ends of the earth are your [Jesus'] possession***: Jesus will take full dominion (possession) over every sphere of culture and society. He will be enthroned and have ownership of everything and everyone.
 - i. *Some wrongly think that Christians should possess every sphere of society in this age. Christians are called to influence every sphere of society, while clinging to the hope of His dominion in the age to come.*
5. ***You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware***: Jesus will unapologetically rule the nations in firm righteousness. He will remove everything that hinders love and all that resists the will of the Father. Before He returns to the planet to rule in the age to come, He will release a wave of end time judgments in order to violently confront sin and the influence of Satan and the Antichrist. Jesus will shatter all that resists Him like a clay pot, when He shakes everything that can be shaken.

- i. The Church will partner with Jesus' end time Judgments the same way Moses partnered with God to loose judgment on Egypt and Pharaoh.
- ii. We partner with Jesus in judgment now through intercession by asking Him to make every wrong thing right.

V. Part 4: David's Exhortation To Be Wise (Psalm 2:10-12):

- a. In the final part of this Psalm, David gives an exhortation. After seeing the 3 previous scenes, David calls the kings, judges, and nations to be wise by walking in humility and intimacy with Jesus. He calls the nations and leaders of culture to serve and obey the leadership of Jesus in the spirit of the fear of the Lord. He calls the nations to a threefold response: *1) Serve the Lord, 2) rejoice with trembling, 3) and to kiss the son.*

(Psalm 2:10-12 NASB), "Now then, you kings, use insight; Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, that He not be angry and you perish on the way, For His wrath may be kindled quickly. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"

- b. ***Now then, you kings, use insight (be wise) Let yourselves be instructed, you judges of the earth:*** Leaders in the culture as well as common men and women have no excuse to be ignorant and uninformed about what is to come. Psalm 2 gives us enough insight into how we should respond when the nations rage, and God shakes the earth. Not every king or leader in culture has to follow the path of the wicked. If they respond rightly to God, they can be a positive influence among a restless and raging culture. The prophet Daniel spoke of men and women at the end of the age having insight to instruct many, while carrying out great exploits.

(Daniel 11:32-33 NASB), "... but the people who know their God will be strong and take action [carry out great exploits]. 33 And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many..."

- c. ***Serve (worship) the Lord with reverence:*** The Hebrew word for serve is also a word for "worship". David calls it wisdom to worship with the fear of the Lord (reverence). Growing in the fear of the Lord means we develop a right perspective of Jesus and His leadership and we respond rightly to Him.
- d. ***Rejoice with trembling:*** David also calls it wisdom to rejoice and be glad in spirit of the fear of the Lord. God is not overwhelmed with the raging nations, and wisdom would instruct you and I also to not be overwhelmed and caught up in the midst of the rage. If we have a right perspective of God (walking in the fear of the Lord) we will not get mixed up in the chaos of culture.
- e. ***Kiss the son, that He not be angry and you perish on the way:*** David calls us to cultivate intimacy with Jesus. Growing in intimacy with God simply means we grow in the experiential knowledge of God and His heart. Those, whom He does not know, will not inherit eternal life and will perish. David calls us to not just to know about Him but to know Him intimately.
 1. ***For His wrath may be kindled quickly:*** The wrath of God that is poured out at the end of the age and for eternity, is not for the righteous. Those who grow in intimacy with God, will grow in righteousness as a direct result and will not experience the wrath of His end of the age judgments or the eternal wrath.
- f. ***How blessed are those who take refuge in Him:*** Those who trust in Him (especially at the end of the age) will be blessed and filled with joy. When the culture takes it's final stand against God and the wicked begin to persecute the righteous, those who find refuge in Jesus will prosper and be victorious.

(Isaiah 40:31 NASB), "Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."