



## Psalm 2 - Part One

Don't you ever wonder why the fight never ends? There seems to be conflict and war in every corner of the world. Just in these past several weeks, eleven people were beheaded in Nigeria for the crime of being Christ-Followers. Muslim militants throughout the world seem to find any place of peace and turn it into a war zone.

The conflict isn't confined to paramilitary organizations. State sponsored persecution is out of control in North Korea, China, and many other nations. More often than not, when the USA gets involved to bring peace to a region, it is criticized, and chants of "Death to America" are heard. I am not saying

everything we do as a nation is right or okay, but much that we do *is* right and seeks to free local peoples from tyrants. I know that I myself and others often ask, "Why do they hate us so much?" It seems to be a hate without explanation. Psalm 2 provides insight to answering that question.

This Psalm is a Royal Psalm. That means it is a coronation Psalm, fitting to be sung as a king is crowned. We do not know for certain who wrote the psalm, but scholars believe it was King David himself. Some speculate that he wrote it as a coronation psalm for himself, but its prophecies go far beyond David. It seems to have multiple explanations. In Psalm 1 we looked at two paths for life. Psalm 2 really shows the second path in operation. It shows the hatred that results when a person or a people follow their own ways instead of the ways of God. It explains why the nations rage against the "Lord's anointed," and the anointed one it speaks of prophetically is none other than Jesus The Messiah. It refers to a day when all of the hatred for the things of God will be subdued and judged by a Righteous King, and it tells us of a time when all of the chaos and friction we see in the world will disappear. In Acts 4, Luke gives an account of Peter and John being arrested and released, and they quote this exact Psalm clearly stating that Jesus is the person in this Psalm.

I believe this Psalm also prophecies of the actual physical, earthly reign of Jesus when He comes back to the earth. Most Christians conceptualize only of an amorphous heaven that has spirits moving around in it. A few months ago, I read a book entitled *When a Jew Rules the World* (by Joel Richardson) that looked at scripture and suggested that heaven will be a place where Believers will live in our glorified bodies on a new earth. It will be a physical place where we can garden and work together in peace. I really like that idea.

Next week I will set out a timeline which I believe describes the events leading up to the millennial reign of Jesus on earth as well as scripture that supports the idea that the age that we are in will end with an event which is sometimes called the "Rapture." Upon the occurrence of the rapture, all believers will be taken out of the earth, and a 7-year time period called the Tribulation will follow. When that is over, Jesus will return to earth and have a physical reign on earth called the Millennium. That rule will last for 1,000 years. After that time, all people will be judged.

This morning, however, let's look at the rage against God's anointed. Why does the world and the political powers of the world so hate believers? Here is the first part of our text this morning.

### **THE RAGE OF THE "NATIONS"**

*Why do the nations rage, (heathen conspire)  
And the people plot a vain thing?  
<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together,  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,  
<sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us." (Psalm 2:1-3, NKJV).*

Have you noticed that there is great chaos in the world? If you haven't noticed, you are asleep. There is a great swelling of hatred toward Christ-Followers. I have given you statistics of how Christians are the most persecuted people group in the world. The nations do indeed conspire. They rage.

The text tells that the nations conspire against the "Lord and His anointed." Remember the Hebrew word for anointed is "Mashiach"...the Messiah. Many today that are at war with the things of God speak highly of Jesus, The Messiah, as a great "teacher" or "moral leader." Yet, these same people are very critical of Christians and/or the Church. Unbelievers often quote the sayings of Jesus out of context to be critical of Christians and/or the Church. They quote Jesus to support their political ideologies, but they have no understanding of their own sin, their own hypocrisy, or their own need for a savior. The world is at conflict with God and ONLY loves the idea of a very domesticated weak Jesus. Jesus may be the Lamb of the World, but never forget He is the Lion of Judah!

The Bible tells us again and again that those who have not been born again in Jesus are naturally hostile to God and the ways and path of a God-centered life. Without coming to faith in Christ people can have no genuine love for Jesus. Without coming to a point of confession and repentance they see the message of the gospel as foolish.

*<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18, NKJV).*

The heathen rage because of their perspective and world view. As the text tells us, they want to operate without constraints. They perceive the ways of God as cords and fetters that bind whatever it is that they want to do. It is impossible to understand the things of the spirit when a person's mind is only operating in fleshly terms. Paul explains this to the little church in Rome when he says,

*"<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:5-8, NKJV).*

*<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight" (Colossians 1:21-22, NKJV).*

These verses explain a lot of the hostility and rage that Christians and for that matter godly nations experience in the world arena. However, we should remember that not all hostility we encounter is because of something going on in the spiritual realm. Sometimes we do things that draw hostility to us. We do acts which anger others. **HOWEVER, NEVER DISCOUNT THAT MUCH OF THE INEXPLICABLE BLOW BACK YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR IDEAS AND POSITIONS IS SPIRITUAL.** How do I know this? Paul tells us that there is a battle that is raging that is spiritual. It is not in the physical realm. It is in the unseen realm.

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:10-13, NKJV).*

This doesn't mean we need to look for a demon or a boogey man behind every conflict or hostile interaction with others. It does, however, mean that much of what we encounter is based, motivated, and happens because of spiritual conflict. This happens EVEN WHEN THE ACTOR HAS NO IDEA THEY ARE BEING MOVED BY FORCES OF DARKNESS. This explains from whence this rage comes. Let's now look at what will be God's response to this rage in the coming days.

## **GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE RAGE**

*<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The Lord shall hold them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,*

*And distress them in His deep displeasure:*

*<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King*

*On My holy hill of Zion." (Psalm 2:4-6, NKJV).*

This is not an arrogant laugh, but a measured response to the confused ideas of man. The surface Hebrew word **שָׂתַק** means "deride," "scorn," etc. But the root Hebrew word means "to beat fine," "to pulverize," or "to rub away." God will literally erase the raging of the nations. When God's judgment comes it is swift. It is powerful. It is complete. His judgment of the raging heathen will be an outpouring of His wrath.

He will speak to them, the text tells us, in "wrath" **אַף**. That's the primitive root of "nostril." You can think of it as the way someone's nostrils flare before they make a blow in a fight. The text then clearly says that the one against whom the "nations rage" is the King on the holy hill in Zion. The King is obviously the Lord's anointed, the Messiah, Jesus. And, He will sit on the throne in Zion, Jerusalem. The following verse is messianic in every sense. It speaks of the Son who is begotten by the speaker, God the Father Himself.

*<sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me,*

*'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.*

*<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

*<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron;*

*You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" (Psalm 2:7-9, NKJV).*

The psalm says that His throne is ON ZION MY HOLY HILL. This is a prophecy speaking of the return of Christ. He will return and rule from Jerusalem, as I mentioned, for a period of 1,000 years. Jesus will be ruling and reigning there. It is interesting that Satan promised all this to the Lord Jesus trying to tempt Him. Satan had temporary rulership. This is quoted by Jesus in the Book of Revelation attributed to the Father. This prophecy is repeated in the Book of Revelation.

*<sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— <sup>27</sup> that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery—just as I have received authority from my Father. (Revelation 2:27, NIV).*

It is Jesus who did the Father's will to the end. To Him will be given authority over all the nations of the earth. He will indeed rule with an iron scepter (a scepter of power, strength, and might), and He will judge the nations - "dash them to pieces like pottery." The psalm then ends,

*<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings;*

*Be instructed, you judges of the earth.*

*<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear,*

*And rejoice with trembling.  
12 Kiss 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.*

The psalm ends with a curious statement about "kissing the son." This part of the psalm is an exhortation to basically get on the right side while the getting is good. It says that the kings and judges of the earth would do good to serve the Lord with fear. This means to serve the Lord respecting God's authority, power, and direction.

The odd statement of "kissing the son" means to show submission to the Son. The Son is Jesus. We see this use of "kissing" as submission in several scriptures. In 1 Samuel 10:1, the prophet Samuel anoints Saul as the first king of Israel and says, "Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, 'has not the Lord anointed you as leader over His inheritance.'" We see this phrase again in 1 Kings 19:18 when God tells Elijah, "Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him." In both passages, kissing shows allegiance and submission. Modern translations, use the word submit instead of "kiss."

Psalm 2 tells us there is a war on. Sides have been taken, and those anointed by God will be the focus of the rage. There is coming a day, when Jesus, the Messiah, will be established in Zion. Get right and kiss the son. Otherwise, you will be subject to the wrath of God.

Next week we will look at how this enthronement of the Messiah might come to take place in days to come. Meanwhile, let's all realize that much of the conflict and chaos that we see in the world, in political movements, in those who rule, is born in spiritual conflict. The ways of the world are at war with the ways of God. We should not be surprised. However, someday the righteous will be vindicated, and the world will be judged.

Let us pray.

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