

FOCUS TEXTS

PSALM 2 (ESV)

¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³ “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

PSALMS, BOOK 1 – SERIES: REFUGE OF THE ANOINTED!

Psalm 2 sings about the Anointed – we find (1) a foolish response against the Anointed, (2) the retribution and (3) the power of the Anointed and finally a second (4) wise response for the Anointed

Loved ones,

INTRODUCTION

A. According to the apostles in Acts 4, the Psalm was written by David.

B. Here King David writes about the Anointed King of God.

C. Who is the Anointed King?

- i. David sings of himself and other kings anointed by God,

BUT

- ii. He also composed these words through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in light of the promise God made to him in 2 Samuel 7.

“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me. Your throne shall be established for ever.” (2 Sam. 7:16)

- iii. The Anointed is therefore the promised Son of David who is forever King on the throne - King Jesus Christ!

>> For us, this fact may be a foregone conclusion - of course Psalm 2 speaks of Jesus! Unfortunately, there are big differences on this, because some claim that the anointed only refers to an earthly king.

>> Important, that we must establish this fact for ourselves - the Holy Spirit also inspired the psalmists to prophesy about the Christ!

D. Psalm 2 is, together with Psalm 1, part of the introduction to the entire book "Psalms".

E. Where Psalm 1 highlighted the two fundamental lifestyles of people for us, Psalm 2 expands on them and joins them:

- i. Psalm 1 focuses mainly on the wise, happy person, who stands prosperously like an evergreen tree.
- ii. Psalm 2 focuses mainly on the restless, foolish person, who will be blown away like chaff and broken like a clay pot.

F. Psalm 1 & 2, show that a person can either live wisely by submitting to the Anointed One, or you live foolishly because you live in rebellion against the Anointed One.

- i. These two responses embrace the whole of Psalm 2 - the foolish response is at the beginning and the Psalm closes with the wise response at the end (v.1-3 & 10-12).
- ii. In the middle of the Psalm, we hear about the Anointed One's retribution (v.4- 6) and
- iii. His power (v.7-9)

... listen to the foolish person first. The foolish person and his reaction against the King...

1. A FOOLISH RESPONSE AGAINST THE ANOINTED ONE (v.1-3)

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?" (v.1)

>> Do you also notice that the world and its people are perpetually restless? There is always discord, disorganization and generally the world is angry!

A. The world is in a restless state and is perpetually angry - angry at each other, but at its core, angry at God and His Anointed.

B. The wise person in Psalm 1 who ponders over the Lord's Word ("musing muttering") will be happy, but the fool of Psalm 2 growls and grumbles against God and will remain eternally unhappy!

- i. In both Psalm 1 & 2 we find this little Hebrew word "Hagha". In Psalm 1 it is something positive - to contemplate the Word. In Psalm 2 it is something negative - to reject the Word and rebel against God!

>> The man of Psalm 1 is truly happy, because he surrendered. He stopped kicking and surrendered to God instead. The fool of Psalm 2 does not want to bow the knee to God and therefore he can never, ever be truly happy.

- ii. With the unbeliever there is a perpetual restlessness. A deep-rooted anger from which he cannot free himself. His whole life is a perpetual grasping at straws. He is, in the biblical sense of the Word, a fool!

>> Perhaps notice this restlessness in yourself? A rebellion against God that you cannot free yourself from? Then you must seriously consider whether you have really surrendered to God? Have you really bowed your knee before Him and recognised Him as King – I don't understand, I don't have the answers, I don't know, but I will go where You want me and I will do what You say!

² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

³ “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” (v.2-3)

C. Worldly people and rulers differ on many things, but on one thing they are united: they don't want to recognise the authority of the Anointed of God!

- i. The "bonds" and "ropes" that the people and kings want to tear off from them indicate God's authority that these people knowingly and reject –

“So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools.” (Rom. 1:21.22)

D. These verses are true in general, but are also a prophecy of one very specific occasion, where nations, a king and a force in power held counsel against the Anointed One.

- i. The word "Anointed" here in v. 2, is the Hebrew word "Messiach" - Messiah.
- ii. Why do we call Jesus not just Jesus, but Jesus Christ? Because "Christ" is the Greek word for "Messiach"!

- iii. One day the Messiah, Jesus Christ, stood before a king, a force in power and nations in the court. King Herod, the governor Pontius Pilate, the Jewish nations and other people stood together to kill the Anointed One –

“Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” (Mat. 27:22)

- a. Why does it say "...with Jesus who is called Christ?..." To show us very clearly, that the prophecy of Psalm 2 is being fulfilled here! The kings, forces in power and people stand together against the Anointed One! Against the Messiah! Against Christ!
- iv. Why did they stand together to crucify the Anointed One? Because He blasphemed against God, as they falsely accused Him? No - they killed Him, because they refused to acknowledge that He is the Son of God. They wanted to tear the bonds and ropes of God's authority from their necks!
- v. Non-Christian political parties, presidents and princes differ on many things. One has this policy and that one has that policy, but they always agree on one thing. The pagan forces have one common enemy: God himself. They do not want to bow the knee to Him and you see it in the parliaments and the laws of the day.

>> Christians have always been persecuted, even today, because we do not recognise anyone else but the Anointed One as the only God. Keep this in mind, beloved, especially when we have to make decisions about lockdown regulations that prohibit or hinder the church and its gatherings.

...v. 1-3 showed us the foolish rebellion against the Anointed One. Will God tolerate it? How does God act against them? He laughs at them. Mock them and pour out His wrath on them. It is v.4-6...

2. THE RETRIBUTION OF THE ANOINTED ONE (v.4-6)

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” (v.4-6)

A. If you were to kill or harm a King of Israel in the Old Testament times, then it was the same as going against God himself.

- i. At one point, David had the opportunity to kill his great enemy, King Saul, but he said to his men:

“He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord’s anointed.” (1 Sam. 24:6)

- ii. Psalm 2 was probably read in times when a new king was appointed over Israel.
- iii. The Psalm reminds the people, not to raise your hand against the new King, because he is anointed by God.

B. How much more does God retaliate and avenge Himself on those who rebel against Christ, the Anointed One!

- i. Those who rebel against David, the King of Jerusalem/Zion will face the vengeance of God himself

BUT

- ii. Jesus is King even over death, because He has power over it and has conquered it. His ascension was His enthronement. He is the Ruler over the Kings of the earth, the Anointed One of Zion, appointed and anointed by God Almighty!

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Mat. 28:18)

>> The most powerful kings of history all lie in a grave today - the kings of Babel, Egypt, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Emperor Augustus... but the Anointed One of Psalm 2 is immortal and He is bodily in heaven today! He can't die!

C. The Anointed One "laughs" and "mocks" at the fools - an image to show us how extremely laughable and meaningless the people's plans against God are.

- i. If God laughs, it is not because the nations are amusing to Him. If God mocks, He is not frivolous. If He is angry, it is a holy and sinless anger.
- ii. As sweet as His mercy is, so bitter is His wrath
- iii. God is a God of love...and...a God of anger and holy wrath who will not tolerate the rebellion of the nations forever!

...what power does the Lord, the Anointed One, have to say these things? What is his area of power? What jurisdiction does He possess?...

3. THE POWER OF THE ANOINTED ONE (v.7-9)

“I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.” (v.7)

A. Suddenly we hear another voice; the voice of the Anointed One who tells of a conversation between Himself and His Father.

- i. Yes, King David could also call himself a son of God. After all, he was the anointed king, appointed by God over the people.

- ii. The apostles also speak in Acts 13 of how the Lord said of David, that he was a

“man after my heart” (Acts 13:22).

Yet it was the Son of David, of whom God said

“and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Mat. 3:17)

- iii. Like David, Jesus was also born as a man, but unlike David, Jesus is God from eternity. One in Essence with the Father. God from God. Light from Light. He was not made, but from eternity with the Father.

B. God made a promise to the Jesus Christ, that He will inherit nations and take possession of the earth! He will rule and utterly crush his enemies!

“⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (v.8-9)

- i. The promise that the Father made to Jesus is that He will save and conquer nations for Himself - as He also says to His disciples in Acts 1:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

- ii. In Revelation 2 we also hear the voice of the resurrected Anointed One, who promises that we who overcome will also rule with Him!:

“The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star.” (Rev. 2:27)

C. Those who bow under the authority of Jesus Christ and recognise Him as the Anointed One will share in His joyful reign, but those who rebel against Him will be completely smashed like clay pots!

>> There is not a single leaf, nor a single planet that falls outside the power and authority of Christ. You can lie down in a boat like Jonah, or be deep at the bottom of the ocean - all this is His and He will know where to find you!

...Now if we hear about His power, His retribution and what He can and will do to the foolish rebels, what then?...

4. A WISE RESPONSE FOR THE ANOINTED ONE(v.10-12)

“¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”(v.10-12)

A. The wise king will let himself be warned with this Psalm and instead declare his loyalty to the Anointed One.

- i. In David's time, when a King was appointed and anointed, those who wanted to prove their loyalty to the king kissed the king - most likely on his hands or feet.

B. The forces of the world must serve and applaud God in deep awe!

>> Can you imagine how different a community and a country would look, if the judges and rulers were people who pondered the Word of the Lord and did not want to constantly reject His authority?

>> It is our task and calling as a church, to be the conscience of the kings, the princes and presidents. Psalm 1 is our lifestyle and future and Psalm 2 is our Message and vocation!

>> We must go out and bring the message of Psalm 2 to the people, on the streets, in the courts, in the parliaments and in the throne rooms.

C. The wise among us will take this Psalm to heart and take refuge in the Anointed One.

- i. Wisdom brings happiness. Awe of the Lord, brings happiness.
- ii. Surrendering to God and taking refuge in Christ, the Anointed Messiah brings salvation from the coming judgment.

AMEN!

Ds. GM Boersema
marnix@scriptura.co.za
071 363 5456

Graaff-Reinet