

Preaching the Psalms Series

(1)

Psalm 2

The Lord's Plan for the Human Race: The Rule of God's Son, the Savior of the World, Psalm 2:1-12

Psalm 2:1-12 (NASB)

¹“Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?

²The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

³“Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!”

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.

⁵Then 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 surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.’

⁸‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very*
ends of the earth as Your possession.’

⁹‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like
earthenware.’”

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the
earth.

¹¹Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.

¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in
Him!”

DEEPER STUDY # 1

(Psalm 2:1-12) Psalm 2 in the *New Testament*: this is a prophetic psalm that is mentioned more in the New Testament than any other psalm. It is either quoted or referenced at least eighteen times. The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture; therefore, the use of this psalm so many times helps us to accurately interpret and understand this passage.

In fact, the New Testament usage sheds light on meanings that are not readily apparent in the reading of the psalm alone. Note these occasions when Psalm 2 is cited in the New Testament:

1. At the baptism of Jesus, the Father spoke from heaven as in Psalm 2:7 (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22).

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

Matthew 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Mark 1:11 (NASB)

¹¹“And a voice came out of the heavens: “**You are My beloved Son**, in You I am well-pleased.”

Luke 3:22 (NASB)

²²“And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “**You are My beloved Son**, in You I am well-pleased.”

2. Jesus alluded to it in the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 7:23](#)).

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

Matthew 7:23 (NASB)

²³“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

3. The Father again cited [Psalm 2:7](#) at the Transfiguration of Jesus ([Matthew 17:5](#); [Mark 9:7](#); [Luke 9:35](#)).

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

Matthew 17:5 (NASB)

⁵“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “**This is My beloved Son**, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

Mark 9:7 (NASB)

⁷“Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “**This is My beloved Son**, listen to Him!”

Luke 9:35 (NASB)

³⁵“Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “**This is My Son**, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”

4. Upon meeting Jesus, Nathanael recognized Him as the fulfillment of [Psalm 2:6-7](#) ([John 1:49](#)).

Psalm 2:6-7 (NASB)

⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’”

John 1:49 (NASB)

⁴⁹“Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, **You are the Son of God**; You are the King of Israel.”

5. Peter and John identified its fulfillment both in their persecution by the Jewish leaders, and in the gathering together of government officials, Jews, and Gentiles against Christ at His crucifixion ([Acts 2:23-31](#)).

Psalm 2:6-12 (NASB)

⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’

⁸‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.’

⁹‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth.

¹¹Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.

¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

Acts 2:23-31 (NASB)

²³“This *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

²⁴But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

²⁵“For David says of Him, ‘I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

²⁶‘THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD, AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER, MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;

²⁷BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

²⁸‘YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.’

²⁹“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

³⁰“And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

³¹he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.”

6. Paul interpreted [Psalm 2:7](#) as referring to Christ's resurrection ([Acts 13:30-37](#)).

[Psalm 2:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

[Acts 13:30-37 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁰“But God raised Him from the dead;

³¹and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

³²“And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

³³that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up

Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘**YOU ARE MY SON;**

TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’

³⁴“*As for the fact* that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY *and* SURE *blessings* OF DAVID.’

³⁵“Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’

³⁶“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;

³⁷but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.”

7. Paul alluded to [Psalm 2:11](#) in exhorting the Philippians to continue in faithful service to the Lord ([Philippians 2:12](#)).

[Psalm 2:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹“Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.”

[Philippians 2:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

8. The author of Hebrews cited [Psalm 2:8](#) and quoted [Psalm 2:7](#) in his introduction of Jesus ([Hebrews 1:2, 5](#)).

[Psalm 2:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.”

[Psalm 2:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

[Hebrews 1:2 \(NASB\)](#)

²“In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

[Hebrews 1:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“For to which of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?”

9. The author of Hebrews quoted [Psalm 2:7](#) in his discussion of Christ's high priestly work when He offered Himself as the Sacrifice for eternal salvation ([Hebrews 5:5-10](#)).

[Psalm 2:7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘**You are My Son**’, Today I have begotten You.”

[Hebrews 5:5-10 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “**YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU**”;

⁶just as He says also in another *passage*, “**YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.**”

⁷In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

⁹And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

¹⁰being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

10. Jesus exhorted the church to be faithful. If we are faithful, we will share in His reign over the nations ([Revelation 2:26](#)).

[Psalm 2:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.”

[Revelation 2:26 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁶“He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS.”

11. The book of Revelation stresses that the rule of Christ over the nations will be fulfilled when Christ returns to Earth ([Revelation 2:27](#); [Revelation 11:18](#); [Revelation 12:5](#); [Revelation 19:15](#)).

[Psalm 2:8-12 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.”

⁹“You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.”

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth.

¹¹Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.

¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!”

Revelation 2:27 (NASB)

²⁷ “AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, **as I also have received authority from My Father.**”

Revelation 11:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ “**And the nations were enraged,** and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Revelation 12:5 (NASB)

⁵ “And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is **to rule all the nations with a rod of iron;** and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.”

Revelation 19:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it **He may strike down the nations,** and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.”