

Preaching the Psalms Series

(10)

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?

² The 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!”

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 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.’”

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

¹¹ Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.

¹² Do 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!”

4. (Psalm 2:10-12) The Lord's warning to the rulers and citizens of the world.

Psalm 2:10-12 (NASB)

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earth.

¹¹ Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.

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For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in
Him!”

So far, **three voices** have spoken in this psalm:

1) bewildered humanity, **2)** God the Father, and **3)** God the Son. To whom does the voice in this final trio of verses belong?

Many excellent commentators agree that the speaker is the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the One who speaks through God's Word to our hearts. He makes a personal plea to the world's rulers and then to all who live in rebellion to God and His Son. The Holy

Spirit works by drawing us to God and convicting us of sin, righteousness, and the judgment to come ([John 16:8-11](#)).

John 16:8-11 (NASB)

⁸ “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

“God’s Holy Spirit yearns over lost mankind. God takes no pleasure in judging men, He would much rather save them than judge them. That is why He adds this last word... God offers man peace, not war.”

a. Be wise—heed this warning ([v. 10](#)).

Psalm 2:10 (NASB)

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

Wise people will not ignore nor scoff at the warning issued in this psalm. Those who oppose the Lord will not succeed. God’s will has been established in heaven, and in due time it will be carried out on earth. Jesus will reign, and all who reject Him will surely perish.

Powerful people are prone to be puffed up with pride. Sadly, some leaders feel invincible, and some judges think they cannot be overruled. But in His unfathomable grace, God sounds the trumpet of warning to the mighty and haughty.

He unveils the distant future that will usher in the glorious day of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:25 (NASB)

²⁵ “For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”

We have been warned. God has revealed...

- what the future holds
- how this world will end
- who will prevail throughout eternity
- what will become of all who refuse Him

b. Serve the Lord with fear ([v. 11](#)).

Psalm 2:11 (NASB)

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

In view of the coming triumph of Christ, what will the wise do? They will *fear* the Lord.

What does this mean?

First, the fear of the Lord is an attitude that demonstrates the highest awe, respect, and reverence toward Him. We who fear the Lord fully recognize His holiness, power, knowledge, wisdom, judgment, and wrath. For those who do not have a relationship with Him, fear includes dread and terror. All who truly fear God's judgment will establish a relationship with Him. This is possible only through His Son, Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#)).

John 14:6 (NASB)

6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

Second, the fear of the Lord is total submission and obedience to Him. If we fear the Lord we will recognize His authority and bow before Him in humble subjection.

Even more, we will obey Him because we appreciate His great sacrificial love for us, the love that nailed God's Son to the cross. We will yield our lives and wills to Him, and we will serve Him all our days.

Anything less than full obedience is not genuine fear of the Lord.

c. Rejoice with trembling (v. 11).

Psalms 2:11 (NASB)

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

We who serve the Lord with fear are not slaves; we are not forced into His service against our will. See the contrast with the attitude of those who rebel against the Lord ([v. 3](#)).

Psalms 2:3 (NASB)

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

The only chains that bind us are the cords of love and gratitude. Our attitudes have been transformed from one of bondage to that of the bondservant ([Exodus 21:1-6](#)).

Exodus 21:1-6 (NASB)

1 “Now these are the ordinances which you are to set before them:

2 If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment.

3 If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.

4 If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out alone.

5 But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’

6 then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.”

We serve the Lord by our own choice, willingly, cheerfully, and gladly ([Romans 12:1-2](#); [Psalm 100:2](#)).

[Romans 12:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

[Psalm 100:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² “Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.”

Joy floods our hearts as we serve...

- 1) because the Lord loves us and has made the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us
- 2) because the Lord is a gracious, kind, and lavishly generous Master. He provides abundantly for us, nurtures us, and cares for all our needs
- 3) because it is a great privilege to serve the great King, the Son of God Himself
- 4) because serving Him brings a great reward
- 5) because we are blessed to be a part of His kingdom, a kingdom that will triumph over all the kingdoms of the world. We are elated to be on the winning side and to share in the immeasurable glory of God’s great kingdom

Yet this awareness of ultimate triumph results in a “startling yet quite appropriate mixture of emotions in the face of serving so great a king.”

While we rejoice, we must never lose sight of the terrible wrath of God. We should tremble at the thought of His justice and judgment—the dreadful day of the Lord and the destruction of His enemies. Because we know the terror of the Lord, we should seek to persuade others to repent and turn to Him ([2 Corinthians 5:11](#)).

[2 Corinthians 5:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.”

d. Kiss God’s Son: Submit to Him as the Lord of the universe ([v. 12](#)).

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

¹² “Do 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!”

The wise will *kiss* the Son. The kiss was a symbol both of affection and submission in the Old Testament world ([1 Samuel 10:1](#); [1 Kings 19:18](#)).

[1 Samuel 10:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ “Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?”

1 Kings 19:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

“Kissing the Son is the act of worship itself. It is the concrete sign of surrender. Thus, the Greek word for worship, *proskuneo*, means ‘come toward to kiss.’”

All who desire to escape the terrible wrath of the Lord *must worship His Son*. They must embrace the Lord Jesus Christ. The only approach to God and the only way to have a relationship with the Lord is through receiving His Son ([John 5:23-24](#); [John 14:6](#)).

John 5:23-24 (NASB)

²³“So that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

²⁴“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Notice, it is the anger of the Son rather than the Father that is to be avoided at all costs. God has committed all judgment to the Son ([John 5:22](#)).

John 5:22 (NASB)

²²“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”

It is the wrath of *Christ* that will be suddenly kindled against the enemies of God. Today, He is a loving Savior offering forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

But on that day He will instantly change from Savior to Judge. The gentle Lamb, who willingly gave Himself on Calvary’s cross, will become a fierce Lion who will devour His enemies.

e. Put your trust and take refuge in Him: You will be blessed ([v. 12](#)).

Psalms 2:12 (NASB)

¹²“Do 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!”

Psalms 2:12 (NKJV) (KJV)

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 wise will spy the gathering dark clouds of judgment, and, without hesitation, they will run to Jesus. *Trust* (**chasah**) means to seek refuge or protection.

“It is used literally of taking shelter from a rainstorm ([Isaiah 4:6](#); [Isaiah 25:4](#); [Job 24:8](#)) or from any danger in the high hills ([Psalm 104:18](#)).”

[Isaiah 4:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶“There will be a shelter to *give* shade from the heat by day, and **refuge** and protection from the storm and the rain.”

[Isaiah 25:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“For You have been a defense for the helpless, A defense for the needy in his distress, A **refuge** from the storm, a shade from the heat; For the breath of the ruthless Is like a *rain* storm *against* a wall.”

[Job 24:8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“They are wet with the mountain rains And hug the rock for want of a shelter.”

[Psalm 104:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸“The high mountains are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a **refuge** for the shephanim.”

The only refuge—shelter, fortress, safe place—from God’s judgment is Jesus Christ. All who flee to Him will be *blessed*. If we have turned to Him, we will be safe in the terrible day of His wrath, but, even more, we will enjoy all that is promised to the righteous person in [Psalm 1](#).

Thought 1. This powerful, prophetic psalm closes with an invitation: “*Take refuge in Him*” This is the passionate plea of God’s Spirit to every creature of Adam’s fallen race. The wrath of God has already been revealed by Holy Scripture, and it will surely be executed just as promised ([Romans 1:18](#)).

[Romans 1:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

If we do not receive His Son, we are condemned to perish, to face eternal destruction and separation from God in hell. The only rescue from the fire is Jesus Christ. The only Ark of Safety from the storm of God’s coming judgment is His Son. He is the Shelter, the Rock of Refuge, the solid and unshakable Fortress. He will be your Savior, or He will be your Judge.

Excellent commentator Derek Kidner concisely summarizes the message of this great psalm: “*There is no refuge from Him: only in Him.*”

[John 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

[John 5:22-24 \(NASB\)](#)

²²“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

²³so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not

honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁴“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Romans 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Revelation 6:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶“And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

¹⁷for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”