

Preaching the Psalms Series

(8)

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!”

2. (Psalm 2:4-6) The Lord's plan for the universe.

Psalm 2:4-6 (NASB)

⁴“He 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.”

The second speaker in this psalm is God Himself. Astonishingly, the omnipotent Creator Himself, the Ruler of heaven and earth, personally responds to David's searching question (v. 6).

Psalm 2:6 (NASB)

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

a. God's response to the rebellious (vv. 4-5).

Psalm 2:4-5 (NASB)

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.”

The Lord's answer to those who brashly revolt against Him is simple and direct. His first reply is non-verbal: He is seen simply *sitting* on His throne ([v. 4^a](#)).

[Psalm 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

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

Sitting is a sign of authority and refers to occupying a ruling position. A powerful image is projected in this scene: the one enthroned in heaven is completely secure in His power and position as Lord of the universe.

He is neither threatened by nor concerned about the rebellion of any individual or any coalition of nations that unites against Him. He is not snapping into action nor mounting a defense. In fact, He does not even rise to deal with them. Completely undisturbed, the Lord continues to rule without interruption. God is on His throne. His *authority* is unchallenged.

Second, He *laughs* ([v. 4^b](#)).

[Psalm 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

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

God's laughter is another expression that declares He is not shaken by His foes. The combined armies of the heathen are no match for Him, and He is not nervous about their plans and attacks. His laughter is for the benefit of His people, all who are truly trusting in Him. It gives a comforting *assurance* to His people: He is unthreatened and in control. “God's laughter, as we face the terror of our history, keeps things in perspective. It reminds us of the answer to the question ‘**Who is in charge?**’ Ultimately, neither ecological disaster nor nuclear nightmare are in charge; God is!”

Third, note God's *amusement* at their folly ([v. 4^c](#)).

[Psalm 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

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

His laugh is a mocking laugh. He holds those who deliberately oppose him—rebellious enemies—in *derision*; that is, He *scoffs* at them. “The presumption of the nations and their leaders causes God to laugh. How can those who are temporal fight the Eternal? How can the creation fight the Creator?”

Indeed, their arrogance is sadly humorous. Another contrast with [Psalm 1](#) is seen here: in the previous psalm the ungodly scorn God and His law ([Psalm 1:1](#)), and in [Psalm 2](#), God scorns them.

[Psalm 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“**How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!**”

[Psalm 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

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

What is amazing to us—that humans would be bold enough to think they can prevail against God—is amusing to the Lord.

The Lord’s amusement turns to *anger* (v. 5).

Psalm 2:4-5 (NASB)

⁵“Then He will speak to them in His **anger** And **terrify** them in His fury, saying.”

This is His fourth response to the nations’ arrogance. He fiercely addresses them and strikes terror in their brassy hearts with His furious tone. *Vex* or **terrify** literally means “**tremble inwardly or palpitate.**” Although His declaration does not immediately come to pass, it hangs like an ominous, looming storm cloud over the haughty heads of the wicked.

Some people question whether God’s anger toward sinners is a righteous response. God is not angry because of uncontrolled emotions, but because of His character. His wrath is kindled against the ungodly because of His holy nature. He is not mean and vicious but just and righteous. His perfect, unbiased justice demands that all be held accountable for their rebellion against Him.

b. God’s pronounced plan: To install His own King—His Son—as Ruler of earth (v. 6).

Psalm 2:6 (NASB)

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

The Lord has designated a King who will rule over His entire creation from *Zion* and Jerusalem. Although His coronation has not yet taken place on earth, this King has already been crowned in heaven. *Set* or **installed** (**nasak**) literally means poured out.

Here it speaks of the pouring out of oil in the act of anointing a priest or king. As the prophet Samuel anointed young David king of Israel years before He actually occupied the throne (**1 Samuel 16:12-13**), God has already anointed His Son King of the earth. Although He does not yet reign, God has ordained His rule. In God’s perfect timing, Jesus Christ will be enthroned on earth as the Ruler of the entire universe.

1 Samuel 16:12-13 (NASB)

¹²“So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.”

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.”

Psalm 2:6 (NASB)

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

Notice that the Lord does not speak of *a* king or *the* king, but of **my** King.

This means that the King “derived his appointment from God, and that he was placed there to execute His purposes. It indicates the very near relation which the anointed One sustains to Him, and prepares us for what is said in the subsequent verse, where he is called His Son.”

Thought 1. Christ’s coming rule on earth is God’s plan, and we can be sure that it will be accomplished. The details of this promise are revealed in the books of the prophets, and finally in the Revelation.

Jesus Christ is “**King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.**”

Revelation 19:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**”

Revelation 11:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.**”

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “**Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven**” ([Matthew 6:10 NASB](#)).

God’s will—the anointing of Christ to rule over God’s kingdom on earth—has already been destined by God. Consequently, Satan works furiously against the kingdom of God because of God’s judgment upon him. God’s condemnation of Satan has angered and stirred him to hurt the heart of God as much as possible.

This he does by trying to thwart God’s eternal plan (See outline below—[Genesis 3:14-15](#); [Isaiah 14:3-22](#) for more discussion).

Genesis 3:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴“The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

¹⁵And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

1. He was cursed above all creatures (v.14).
2. He was to crawl upon his belly: to be detested, degraded, and miserable—always (v.14).
3. He was to eat dust: to be defeated and humiliated—always (v.14).
4. He was to be the object of enmity—enmity was to be waged between him and the woman and her seed (v.15).
5. He was to be crushed by one particular seed or descendent of the woman (v.15).

Isaiah 14:3-22 (NASB)

³ “And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved,

⁴ that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the oppressor has ceased, *And how* fury has ceased!

⁵ "The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of rulers

⁶ Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes, Which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution.

⁷ "The whole earth is at rest *and* is quiet; They break forth into shouts of joy.

⁸ Even the cypress trees rejoice over you, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*, 'Since you were laid low, no *tree* cutter comes up against us.'

⁹ "Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones.

¹⁰ "They will all respond and say to you, 'Even you have been made weak as we, You have become like us.

¹¹ 'Your pomp *and* the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out *as your bed* beneath you And worms are your covering.'

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, *saying*, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to *go* home?'

¹⁸ "All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb.

¹⁹ "But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.

²⁰ "You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.

²¹ "Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter Because of the iniquity of their fathers. They must not arise and take possession of the earth And fill the face of the world with cities."

²² "I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity," declares the LORD."

The picture in [Isaiah 14:1-23](#) is that of a mighty monarch whose pride brought him to destruction. This is what happened to Belshazzar when Darius the Mede captured Babylon in 539 B.C. ([Daniel 5](#)). Isaiah described the king's arrival in Sheol, the world of the dead, where the king's wealth, glory, and power vanished. The dead kings already in Sheol stood in tribute to him ([Isaiah 14:9](#)), but it was all a mockery. Death is the great leveler; there are no kings in the world of the dead. "Lucifer" ([v.12](#)) is Latin for "morning star" and suggests that this king's glory did not last very long. The morning star shines but is soon swallowed up by the light of the sun.

Note this fact while reading the Scripture and outline:

1. After the fall of Babylon, the people of God would be set free.
2. It was God Himself—His awesome power—who ended the oppressor's brutality and rule ([vv.4-11](#)).
 - a. God snapped the rod and rule of this wicked king ([vv.5-6](#)). The LORD executed judgment against him...
 - because of his aggressive conquest of nations
 - because of his governing people in brutality, striking them down with endless blows
 - b. By defeating the wicked king, the LORD gave rest and peace to the whole world ([vv.7-8](#)).
 - c. God doomed this wicked king to hell (Sheol) ([vv.9-11](#)).
3. Lucifer's fall from heaven now takes place ([vv.12-23](#)).
 - a. This morning star was cast from his exalted position from the heights of heaven itself (v.12).
 - b. What was the sin that caused such a terrible fall, especially for one who had held such a prominent position and had been exalted so highly? to exalt his throne, his position above all the stars of God ([v.13](#); see [Genesis 11:3-4](#))
 - to be the very one worshipped on the sacred mountain
 - to exalt himself above the clouds, to be like the Most High God Himself ([v.14](#))Note the five "I wills" of Lucifer in these verses. Within his innermost thoughts, he was exalting himself above God. Just as people down through history have exalted themselves, ignoring and even denying the LORD, so this morning star was ignoring the LORD and exalting himself. His personal will and ambition were set against God.
 - c. Lucifer's fate was sealed: he was brought down to the very pit of hell, that is, to its lowest depths ([v.15](#)).
 - d. Lucifer's end will be most shameful and humiliating ([vv.16-17](#)).
 - Is this the one who had caused nations and kingdoms to tremble?
 - Is this the one who had so long devastated the world and its cities and enslaved its people?
 - e. This morning star will have a dishonorable burial, for his body will not lie in state like other kings ([vv.18-20](#)).
 - because of his destructive and brutal nature

- because he swept across the earth dominating and oppressing them
- f. Even the king's offspring will never be mentioned again ([v.20](#)).
- g. The king's empire will be utterly destroyed by God Himself ([vv.22-23](#)).

First, as Christian believers, we are privileged to have a part in the accomplishment of God's will by praying for it to be done. We must not neglect this sacred responsibility when we pray. It has been assigned to us by Jesus Christ Himself.

Second, we are to spend our lives working for the Lord's kingdom. This too is a great privilege. Jesus instructed us to make God's kingdom and His righteousness the first priority in our lives ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

[Matthew 6:33 \(NASB\)](#)

³³ **“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”**

We should devote ourselves to bringing God's will to pass in this world. It is God's will for all to believe upon Christ and receive Him as Savior and Lord ([1 Timothy 2:4](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)).

[1 Timothy 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴ **“Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**

[2 Peter 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ **“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”**

One of our primary responsibilities in working for God's kingdom is sharing Christ with others. The kingdom of God is established on earth one soul at a time.

Finally, we should acknowledge Jesus Christ as the King of our lives and allow Him to reign in us. Every day, our first act should be to surrender ourselves to Him. When making decisions, planning schedules, and choosing what we will do, His will should be our primary concern. As we yield ourselves to Him, He will guide us each step of our lives. We can trust that He who gave Himself for us will never fail us. When we devote ourselves to His will (His kingdom) He promises to meet our every need and work all things together for our good ([Romans 8:28](#)).

[Romans 8:28 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁸ **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”**

[Revelation 12:10-12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰ **“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”**

¹¹ “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”

¹² “For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

Revelation 14:1 (NASB)

¹ “Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.”

Revelation 19:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹ “And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

Genesis 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Genesis 49:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.”

Daniel 7:27 (NASB)

²⁷ “Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.”