

Preaching the Psalms Series

(9)

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!”

3. (Psalm 2:7-9) The Son's proclamation of the Lord's plan (decree): God's glorious promise to His Son.

Psalm 2:7-9 (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.’

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.’”

The third voice heard in response to David's question is none other than the eternal voice of the pre-incarnate Son of God. He speaks to expound and document what God the Father has said in [verse 6](#).

Psalm 2:6 (NASB)

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

a. God proclaimed His Son to be the King (v. 7).

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

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

The Son uses two significant words to announce His purpose for speaking:

⇒ *Declare* or *proclaim* (**saphar**) means to count or number, usually for the purpose of establishing a record or affirming accuracy. It is the word used for the work of scribes and for the official census of a nation. It also means to recount; that is, to declare or transfer information for the purpose of accurately preserving it.

⇒ (*Tell*) *decree* (**khoke**) is from a root verb which means to scratch or engrave, as in the writing of laws in stone. The form used here refers to that which has been permanently etched and established. It is used in Scripture of both the law of God and the laws of men. It is also used of the unchanging laws of nature which God established to operate the universe (**Job 28:26; Jeremiah 5:22; Jeremiah 31:35-36**).

Job 28:26 (NASB)

²⁶ “When He set a limit for the rain And a course for the thunderbolt.”

Jeremiah 5:22 (NASB)

²² “‘Do you not fear Me?’” declares the LORD. ‘Do you not tremble in My presence? For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, An eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.’”

Jeremiah 31:35-36 (NASB)

³⁵ “Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name:

³⁶ “If this fixed order departs From before Me,” declares the LORD, “Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.”

The Son of God is revealing a conversation between the Father and Himself that occurred before the foundation of the world. In that conversation, the decree was given that God’s Son would become the sacrifice for humanity’s sin, and that God would exalt Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. The Son is declaring the decree of God’s will—officially adopted and enacted in heaven—that appointed Him as King.

Other Scripture confirms this truth:

John 17:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

1 Peter 1:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ “Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ.*

²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.”

Revelation 13:8 (NASB)

⁸ “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

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

Cults misinterpret “*this day have I begotten thee*” to teach that God’s Son has not eternally existed, that He is the creation or offspring of God. This, of course, is contrary to all sound doctrine as revealed throughout the Scripture. To what then does this statement refer?

Many believe it is a reference to Christ’s incarnation, His becoming a man through the miraculous process of the virgin birth so that He might fulfill God’s will by dying for humanity’s sin.

This is consistent with the use of the term *begotten* in the New Testament ([John 1:14](#), [18](#); [John 3:16](#), [18](#); [1 John 4:9](#)). [Hebrews 5:5](#) applies [Psalm 2:7](#) to Christ’s sacrifice as High Priest.

John 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *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 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

1 John 4:9 (NASB)

⁹ “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.”

Hebrews 5:5 (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.”

Psalm 2:7 (NASB)

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

Others view it as speaking of Christ’s resurrection, primarily on the basis of [Acts 13:30-37](#). [Revelation 1:5](#) also supports this interpretation.

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.”

Revelation 1:5 (NASB)

⁵“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”

b. God promised His Son a glorious inheritance—universal rule: He would inherit the nations and possess the entire earth (v. 8).

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.”

The human birthright of Jesus was to rule over the entire earth. He left His exalted place in heaven and became a man so that He might redeem both humanity and the earth. The earth is cursed because of our sin; therefore, it too must be redeemed ([Genesis 3:17-18](#); [Romans 8:19-22](#)).

Genesis 3:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

¹⁸ “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field.”

Romans 8:19-22 (NASB)

¹⁹ “For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”

Because of His sacrifice as the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ is to inherit the earth that He died to redeem. God has bequeathed it to Him. It will surely be His, exactly as the Father has decreed.

Simply stated, Jesus will inherit the earth because of His sacrifice at Calvary:

Isaiah 53:12 (NASB)

¹² “Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.”

c. God promised His Son the power to conquer and rule over all the nations, (v. 9).

Psalm 2:9 (NASB)

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

“The scepter of this universe will be held by a Man with nail-pierced hands.” The *heathen* or *nations*, the same ones who brashly rebel against God ([v. 1](#)), will be fiercely subdued and forcibly subjected to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 2:1 (NASB)

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

Why is the *rod of iron* necessary?

Why will God’s Son be so ruthless in His rule?

The nations will not accept Christ as their king. He must be severe because the kings of the world will unite their armies together in one final unrestrained attack against Him when He returns to claim His inheritance ([Re. 19:11-21](#)).

Revelation 19:11-21 (NASB)

¹¹ “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself.

¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

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.

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

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God,

¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.”

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.”

“Those that will not bow shall break.” Like brittle bowls of clay they will shatter in pieces at the powerful Word of God’s glorious Son.

Psalm 2:9 (NASB)

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

Psalm 2:9 (KJV)

⁹ “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Psalm 2:9 (NKJV)

⁹ “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Thought 1. Oh, how the Father loves the Son! The plan of salvation was drafted in the heart of God not only because of His great love for us, but also because of His great love for His Son. The world was created for Christ. It is God’s gift to

His Son. Christ's willingness to redeem it proved His worthiness and right to this great gift.

And oh, how the Son loves us! Jesus does not selfishly cling to His inherited possession, but He willingly shares it with His beloved bride, the Church. He promises that we will rule and reign with Him—that we will even be joint-heirs with Him. How abundantly blessed we are to belong to Him!

We must remember the Lord's glorious promise during the difficult days of life. Living for Christ is not always easy. Obeying Him requires taking up the cross and following Him ([Luke 9:23](#)).

Luke 9:23 (NASB)

²³“And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Putting the Lord and His will first in our lives requires sacrifice. Furthermore, standing up for the Lord and His Word carries a price, the price of persecution and suffering.

But if we are faithful to the Lord, we have been promised a great reward. If we share in His sufferings, we will also share in His glory ([Romans 8:16-17](#); [1 Peter 4:13](#)).

Romans 8:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

1 Peter 4:13 (NASB)

¹³“But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

His inheritance is our inheritance. Jesus endured the suffering of the cross by focusing on the joy that was set before Him. We must follow His example, and we must keep our eyes on Him when we become weary in the race of life

([Hebrews 12:1-2](#)).

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

John 3:35 (NASB)

³⁵“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.”

John 17:24-26 (NASB)

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

²⁵ “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;

²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Romans 8:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

Colossians 1:16-20 (NASB)

¹⁶ “For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

Revelation 2:26-27 (NASB)

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

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 5:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ “And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

¹⁰ “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”