

## Psalm 2: The Messiah King

### I. Introduction: Kingship ↔ Sonship

*"The meaning of a psalm in its original context, whether historical or literary, is foundation for not only understanding the Psalm, but also for making the correct connections to Christ."*

- Belcher, *The Messiah and the Psalms*, 19.

*"Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel... Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son... <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."* (2 Sam 7:8-16)

*"And they made Solomon the son of David king... Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him."* (1 Chron 29:22-23)

### II. Psalm 2 and Discussion

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

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
heritage against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,  
possession.

<sup>3</sup> "Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."

<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.

<sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

"As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."

<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your  
and the ends of the earth your

<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> 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. (Ps 2:1-12)

1. In light of the king as God's "son" (see 2 Sam 7), what is the logic behind the Psalmist's question in v. 1?
2. What is so deceitful and tragic about the rebels' cry against God (v.3)? How do they view God?
3. Was this Psalm fulfilled by King David (see vv. 8-9)? Implications? How should we view our earthly leaders in light of this?

*"With the failure of the monarchy David's kingship becomes an ideal looking forward to a king who will rule in righteousness, a son who will possess the ends of the earth."*

- Dr. Richard Belcher, *The Messiah and the Psalms*, p. 129

4. When did God speak the words vv. 7-9 to Christ (see Acts 13:32-33)? How should Psalm 2 affect your view of opposition to the Gospel? How should it encourage you specifically? How should it affect you when the chaos seems to mark your life?

*When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,*

*"Why did the Gentiles rage,*

*and the peoples plot in vain?*

*26 The kings of the earth set themselves,*

*and the rulers were gathered together,*

*against the Lord and against his Anointed'--*

*27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Act 4:23-31)*

5. How are Christians beneficiaries of our King's ultimate victory, according to Revelation?

*"The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and 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." (Rev 2:26-27)*

*"In the First Psalm, we saw the wicked driven away like chaff; in the Second Psalm, we see them broken in pieces like a potter's vessel. In the First Psalm, we beheld the righteous like a tree planted by the rivers of water; and here, we contemplate Christ the Covenant head of the righteous, made better than a tree planted by the rivers of water, for He is made king of all the islands, and all the heathen bow before Him and kiss the dust; while He Himself gives a blessing to all those who put their trust in Him." - C.H. Spurgeon*

***Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. 6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:5)***