

# Royal Messianic Psalms

## Psalm 2: The Messiah, King among the Nations

### INTRODUCING THE PSALM

This psalm was written in the situation of an interregnum (interval of time between the end of one sovereign's reign and the accession of a successor). This psalm applies to the spiritual, eternal reign of the Messiah Jesus, and to his spiritual reign in our hearts.

At such a time of void, there can be temporary suspension of the usual functions of government or control. Rebellions can occur. Examples: recent presidential election campaign time. Opposite example: When Ronald Reagan was election, on the very day of his inauguration in January, 1981, the Iranian Government released the 54 American hostages who were being held in Tehran.

King David wrote this psalm (Jesus says so in Matthew 22:41-45). It was probably used for the coronation of subsequent kings of Judah. But its most important use refers to the Messiah-King, God's Son, Jesus.

### Verses 1-5 Conflict and Confrontation Between God and Rebels

- + In an interregnum, revolts have often been mounted: "This may be our last and best chance to grab power for ourselves; strap on your swords!" Rebellions in Israel's history include Korah's (Numbers 16). Even Moses sister and brother, Miriam and Aaron rebelled: "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn't He also spoken through us?" (Numbers 12).
- + Here: "The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against His Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters" vss 2-3.
- + Rebellion can take two forms: 1) Active Revolt, as in this text. And 2) Passive Resistance. Some describe this as stalling, or going on strike. It can become "Passive-Aggressive." The person shows an attitude of apparent compliance, then a certain situation occurs and he erupts into violence. E.g., hunter in WI.
- + Jesus referred to this attitude in the parable of the talents (Matt 19:11 ff.), in which subjects of the kingdom say, "We don't want this man to be our king."
- + God the Almighty King responds first by laughing: "The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them" (v.4). See Psalm 59:6-8.
- + Now comes God's anger: "Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in His wrath" (v. 5). Note that the author of the psalm leaves it to God to carry out revenge as He sees fit. "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord" (Rom. 12:19). Paul was harassed by Alexander the metalworker in Ephesus: "He did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done" (1 Tim.4:14). Also re: those who did not come to his support when he was on trial in Rome, he said, "May it not be held against them" (2 Tim.4:16).

- + In His wisdom and best timing, God will intervene: “You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery” (v. 9). God told Jeremiah to use this object lesson when preaching repentance in Jerusalem: Jeremiah.19:10-11.

## **Verses 6 – 9 God Appoints His Son as King**

- + The Son-King says, “(My Father) said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father” (v.7). In Matthew 22 is Jesus’ dialogue with the Sadducees who say there is no resurrection, and the Pharisees. Jesus broached the matter of His true identity as the Messiah: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he? “The son of David,” they replied. He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’?” For he says, “The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet. [quoting Psalm 110:1) “If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” So Jesus established His divine Sonship, calling on his opponents to repent of their worship of their own ethnicity and their forebear King David.
- + Paul quotes this psalm to clarify that by raising Jesus from the dead, God fulfilled His promise of salvation through His Son Jesus: “We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “You are my Son; today I have become your Father” (Acts 13:32-34). By rising from the dead, Jesus proved that He is God’s only Son, the true Messiah-King of the world.
- + In Acts 4:25 Peter quoted this psalm (verses 1 & 2). God had used him and John to heal a man who was crippled from birth, and sat begging at the temple gate called Beautiful. The Sanhedrin arrested the two, putting them in jail for a night, admonishing them not to speak the gospel of Jesus, and released them. When they returned to the Upper Room, Peter prayed, quoting Psalm 2, about people rebelling against God and His Anointed Messiah. Then he prayed for two things: 1) That God would enable the believers to speak His Word with great boldness, and 2) that they would be enabled to perform miraculous signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. That’s what happened as the Spirit grew the early Church.

## **Verses 10 – 12 Praising God Is Always Safe and Appropriate**

- + “Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son (‘s feet) lest He be angry with you. . . Blessed are all who take refuge in Him: (vss 11-12, parts).

### **LIVING THE PSALM**

- 1. Finding oneself in a void, one may be tempted to rebel against God. Conversely, if Jesus is our King, we escape the danger of rebelling.**
- 2. God responds by laughing at rebels’ absurdity. He becomes angry.**
- 3. The Holy Spirit prophesied that the Messiah-King would come. Jesus fulfilled all these prophecies in every way.**
- 4. When we respond to God by praising and worshiping Him in humility and joy, our voids are filled, our fears relieved, and our joys renewed.**