

# Jesus – Will You Receive His Wrath or His Refuge?

## Psalm 2

All Bible Verses are in the ESV unless otherwise  
noted.

© 2001–2019 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added are mine

# Psalm 2

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,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

<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,

<sup>6</sup> "As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."

# Psalm 2

- <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 heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.
- <sup>9</sup> You shall break<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

# Historical Setting

## 2 Samuel 7:1-17

1. God's sovereign choosing of David as king.
2. God's promise to make David's name and kingdom great.
3. God's promise to raise up an offspring (seed – same word used in Gen 3:15) whose throne would be established forever.
4. God says that for this coming king “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son” – we see the idea of sonship that first applied to Solomon, then to the kings that would follow in the Davidic line, and was ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

# Historical Setting

View of Messiah in Jesus day:

**Matthew 2:1-4** *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.*

**Luke 3:15** *As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ,*

# Outline

1. v1-3 The People Rebel
2. v4-6 God Responds
3. v7-9 The Messiah Speaks
4. v10-12 The World is Warned



# v1-3 The People Rebel

*Psalms 2:1-3 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”*

- v1 “Plot” is the same Hebrew word (hagah) translated meditate in Psalm 1.
- v2 “Anointed”
  - In the Old Testament, we see both high priests, prophets and kings being anointed – being set apart for the and office or task to which God had called them.
  - “Messiah” comes from transliterating the Hebrew word for anointed used here.
  - “Christ” comes from translating “Anointed” into Greek.

# v1-3 The People Rebel

- v3 “bonds and cords”
  - **Jeremiah 5:5** *I will go to the great and will speak to them, for they know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God.” But they all alike had broken the yoke; they had burst the bonds.*
  - “They know their Master's will, but are resolved to have their own will, to *walk in the way of their heart and in the sight of their eyes.* They think themselves too goodly to be controlled, too big to be corrected, even by the sovereign Lord of all himself.” **Matthew Henry**



# v4-6 God Responds

4 *He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision [NASB - scoffs at them].* 5 *Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,* 6 *“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”*

- Man's rebellion is not only futile, it is actually accomplishing God's purposes.
- **Acts 4:23-28** *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.*
- *God might well laugh at their folly, for they were really executing his will all the while they were rebelling against him. **Charles Spurgeon***

# v7-9 The Messiah Speaks

*7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage [NASB - inheritance], and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel [NASB - earthenware].”*

- Speaker shifts from God the Father to God the Son
- In the synagogue in Antioch, Paul speaks of Jesus' resurrection as his coronation:
  - **Acts 13:32-33** *And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.”*

# v7-9 The Messiah Speaks

We serve a conquering king, who created us and the whole universe and is sovereignly ruling now.

This reality provided hope to the early church,

*Acts 4:31* *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.*

and is the foundation for the Great Commission:

*Matthew 28:18-20* *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

# v10-12 The World is Warned

*10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers [NASB - judges] of the earth. 11 Serve [NASB - worship] the LORD with fear [NASB - reverence], and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son [NASB - do homage], lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly [NASB - may soon be] kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

- Just because God is patient doesn't mean that He will not eventually bring forth His justice.
  - **Romans 2:4** *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*



# v10-12 The World is Warned

## The Coming Wrath of Jesus

- **Revelation 6:15-17** *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”*
- **Revelation 19:11-16** *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*