

## PSALM 2

## THE MESSIAH PSALM

This Psalm is a remarkable prophecy concerning Christ Jesus. It is quoted by the Apostles in Acts chapter 4. Herein it is predicted that Christ would suffer and be crucified, and that He would be glorified as King and Lord of all creatures. To Him would be given all power, both in heaven and on earth; and His name would be above every other name – not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

This Psalm also contains a description of Christ's Kingdom, and the terrible threatenings of God against the rulers and wise men and powerful princes of the world. They shall all perish, for – being carried away with the pride of human reasoning and carnal wisdom – they do not acknowledge Jesus as King, nor do they obey His Gospel. Rather, they oppose His Kingdom and endeavor to blot out His name. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion," the Lord says. In a sense, these words could have been said of David, as a picture of Christ, when the Lord set David upon the throne of Zion. But we must look beyond David and all other earthly monarchs, and here behold Jesus as God's King! For it is one of the unique characteristics of Christ that He did not assume the spiritual Kingdom in this world without being called, nor did He take up the eternal Kingdom in the world above without being called by God – just as Aaron was Divinely called to serve the Lord as a high priest (Heb. 5:4-5). And it is the great joy of Jehovah's people that their King is their lawful Sovereign, Redeemer, and Mediator – being so appointed and constituted by the Lord Himself. Let us always keep this view of Jesus before our eyes! Let us remember continually that He is the Head and King of His Church and people, for it will give us confidence in all our prayerful approaches to the Father through Him. How sweet it is when we come to God to tell Him that what we plead and seek is in the name of Him Whom He Himself has set up as His King in Zion! What unknown and innumerable arguments are comprehended in that one pleading of the Church, when she prays, "Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed!" (Ps. 84:9)

**Overview of the Psalm, adapted from Charles Spurgeon:**

We shall not err in our summary of this sublime Psalm if we call it "the Psalm of Messiah the Prince"; for it sets forth – as in a wondrous vision – the tumult of the people against the Lord's Anointed One, the determinate purpose of God to exalt His own Son, and the ultimate reign of that Son over all His enemies. Let us read this Psalm with the eye of faith – beholding, as in a glass, the final triumph of our Lord Jesus Christ over all His enemies.

This Psalm will be best understood if it is viewed as a four-fold picture. In verses 1-3, the nations are raging; in verses 4-6, the Lord in heaven derides them; in verses 7-9, the Son proclaims the decree; and from verse 10 to the end, advice is given to the kings to yield obedience to the Lord's Anointed One.



But we must not overlook how this beautiful Psalm speaks of Jesus' Mediatorial Kingdom! "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (verse 8). As the Son of God, the Kingdom is His by right; for He is one with the Father, forever and ever. As such, therefore, Jesus could not be said to be set upon the holy hill, or to receive a Kingdom; but as the Mediator and glorious Head of His Church, this Kingdom is given to Him as the reward of His sufferings, obedience, and death! And therefore, He is represented here as exercising His High Priestly office as well as His Kingly one – asking the heathen for His inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for His possession. Let us not fail to observe how all this belongs to the Lord Jesus, and to Him alone – for never did God say to David or to any other potentate of the earth, "Thou art my Son"; or, "Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance."



This sacred song also contains some very consoling promises – namely, that He Who sits in the heavens (in comparison of Whom, all the kings of the earth are mere worms) holds in derision all His enemies' counsels and crafty devices against His Word and His Kingdom; and in a moment, He defeats and overturns them. Moreover, He powerfully and miraculously saves, preserves, delivers, and prospers believers and the whole Church throughout the world – in the midst of the kingdom of the devil, and against all the powers and the gates of hell!

*O Lord Jesus, we praise You as the Kingly Messiah, Who has earned the right to reign and rule in Your Mediatorial Kingdom by Your sufferings, obedience, and death. We give You thanks for the assurance that all opposition against Your Kingdom and Your people is in vain – for with Your own right arm, You have gotten Yourself the victory; and all the enemies of Your cross and of Your crown shall be broken in pieces like a clay vessel! Amen.*