



**MATT BLACK**, Sun, July 22, 2018  
livinghopechurch.net

## 2 | PSALM 2

# SIGNPOSTS FOR GOD'S KING

### Outline

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Why Fight Against the Merciful Messiah? (2:2)

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*Jesus is the Most **High** King*

*Jesus is the Most **Gracious** King*

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*Don't Break the Cords of Creation*

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*To Recognize Christ as King is to Admit Failure*

*To Recognize Christ as King is to Admit the Truth About Yourself*

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### Announcements

1. Welcome visitors!
2. It's not too late to register your kids for VBS, either in the foyer or online. VBS is this week from 6:30-8:30pm (July 23-27). Workers please arrive at 6pm.
3. Decoration after the AM service for VBS

## ***Introduction***

Open your Bible if you will to **Psalm 2**. We are continuing a short series called "Shadow of the Almighty." Our desire is to take ten Psalms till the end of September and learn how to walk in God's comforting and powerful presence. We hope over many years during the Summer to go through the entire Psalter one day, if God permits.

## ***Sign Posts***

Psalm 2 is so very important when it comes to your destination. Before I went to Israel I was so excited, thinking about it all the time, and finally I arrived, and it was even better than I could have ever imagined. It was seeing with my eyes what I had only read about. That's what Psalm 2 is: it clarifies our destination where Christ is absolute king over me and the world. That's the destination.

But along the way to that destinations there are signposts. Signposts give clear direction that you are on the right or wrong pathway. They inform you how far or how close you are to the destination. Throughout the ages, people have used signposts to get places. What is a signpost? Simply put a signpost is something that helps you know where you are going. It reminds you to pay attention to something important. For example, there are stop signs, city signs, Interstate signs, and most importantly there are directional signs that tell us we are on our way somewhere. "Welcome to Illinois." "Northwest Suburbs, 390." "Dead End." "Stop Ahead." It would be pretty bad to ignore these. Sometimes people die if they ignore a stop sign.

Once I was on my way to an elder's home. I had been to his house many times, but I was so used to being mind-numbed by GPS, I really wasn't sure where he lived. I am one that is highly dependent on the digital signposts on my iPhone: turn right ahead, recalculating... you understand. One day my cell phone died on my way to his home, and I honestly didn't know how to get to my destination. I had to stop at a total strangers' house. Thankfully a very techy looking guy answered the door and I explained my dilemma. He let me use his cell phone. It was a miracle that I remembered my wife's number. She handed the phone to my elder and he patiently guided me to his abode! Wow, I am a man in great need of signposts.

Psalm 2 is all about how we can get to our most important destination: bowing before God's King, the Lord Jesus Christ. All our plans should be submitted to him. In the world, there are many signs pointing in so many directions. This morning we are going to look at four signposts of Jesus, God's king, and consider where they lead us.

Where are you headed this morning? Is God leading you? That's what this Psalm is all about. Let's bow to Jesus. Let's go where ever Jesus, God's King takes us. If you are not sure about where you are headed, and you need direction, this Psalm's for you. It's for anyone who wants the Lord Jesus Christ to direct their life. That's what I want more than anything.

## ***Scripture Reading***

Let's stand and read our passage today, 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 [enthroned] **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 heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <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 [worship] the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss [do homage] 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.

*This is God's Word.*

This Psalm doesn't mention who wrote it, but Acts 4:25 says this Psalm was written by King David. David had much opposition, for sure, but there are many things in this Psalm that refer to Someone much greater than David. Psalm 2 is a Royal Psalm because it a Psalm about the king of Israel. It's also a Messianic Psalm because the ultimate king of Israel is Jesus the Messiah.

This Psalm is placed strategically with Psalm 1. Psalms 1 & 2 stand as dual doorkeepers as you enter the Hebrew hymnal. Psalm 1 is about two paths. Psalm 2 is about God's one king. Which path will choose? Whose king will you serve?

The Kings of Israel were pictures of the coming Christ. They were all considered “sons of Yahweh.” Psalm 2 is a Psalm was likely read on David's coronation day. It's referring back to 1 Samuel 7 where God said David's kingdom will be everlasting. God says to the king of Israel, “You are my son, today I have begotten you.”

We are looking at the four signposts of God's King this morning. There are major directions we need to listen to. We are not talking about traffic but the direction of your life. The first signpost says: Wrong Way!

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## 1. WRONG WAY (2:1-3)

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*Wrong Way on a One Way in Chicago*

I was driving a massive Ford F450 with an extended bed. I had a full load, and it was my first time driving in the city of Chicago. I had to drop off the entire contents of a currency exchange build we had that day. It was like a giant Lego kit made of steel. Did you know there are one way streets in the city? How do you go the right way when you turn the wrong way down a one way? Let me tell you there was a lot of horns honking. There were several people rolling down their windows giving me their lovely opinions.

Dear saints, this Psalm tells us that there a whole lot of people going the wrong way in this world. Listen to David. David begins with a vital question we all need to ask: “**Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**” (2:1).

## WHY FIGHT AGAINST THE GOD OF GRACE? (2:1)

Why do the **nations rage** against a God of grace and mercy? Isn't that strange to you? Why would people make plans to make sure they are *not* walking with the King of kings? Why rebel against a King who is merciful and kind?

I want you to get to a destination where you are walking in harmony and grace with the living God. Don't you want that? So many people are **fighting** against this amazing God of grace. Isn't it crazy? But they are. All the nations of the world in one form or another, according to Psalm 2, are raging in their fight against King Jesus. Bad idea. Very bad idea. King David, who wrote this Psalm (Acts 4:25) asks a very important question: "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?" The point is: fighting against a God of grace is futile. What God has is what you need. His grace will save you from your sins. Without the God of grace you go to hell.

## WHY FIGHT AGAINST THE MERCIFUL MESSIAH? (2:2)

Why do the **nations rage** Why fight and plan against the Lord's Anointed? "**The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed**" (2:2).

### *Meaning of Messiah*

Why fight against God's Messiah (Anointed)? Israel's king was anointed to bring blessing to the nations. If they had come to worship Israel's God they would have been blessed with grace and mercy.

Isn't it so foolish that the nations around Israel would oppose **the Lord and his King**? And yet they do. They rage against God, and their rage is laser focused on the God's Anointed King, the Messiah. Originally the kings and nations that fought against King David would have been the Philistines, the Amalekites, and even Egypt, among countless others. David fights against the Jebusites and takes Jerusalem as his capital. David is God's Anointed, but he is flawed. There is one greater than David coming.

The word "Anointed" is Hebrew *Mashiach*. Why is *Mashiach* translated **Anointed**? The Messiah would be anointed with oil, signifying the power, wisdom, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. He's the one anointed with all power, wisdom, authority, and all grace and mercy as well.

Anointed essentially means the person God chooses (by anointing them) to be a mediator, a go between. Usually it is a king, but the Messiah also has all three roles: prophet, priest and king. That's what Christ is anointed to do. He's anointed to bring you to God. He's anointed to be your Redeemer and Savior and King. He wants to lovingly guide you away from harm and into grace.

He's our **prophet** – he tells us the truth. He's our **priest** – he brings us to God through his merciful sacrifice. He's our **king** – he leads us. Various people filled those roles in Israel, but only one greater than any of the prophets, priests or king would one day come and be God's Anointed Messiah.

### *The Reason for the Fight: Delusion of Self*

Why would the kings and nations war against the such a merciful Messiah? Because they are under a delusion. They think they are capable of guiding people and nations. Let's call it the delusion of self.

People are fighting against Jesus because they don't want him to be **prophet**. They invent their own **truth**. They don't want him to be **priest**. They invent their own **salvation**. They don't want him as **king**; they want their own autonomy to make their own **choices**. It comes down to the deluded desire for self-autonomy or self-rule.

The famous actress Angelina Jolie described this idea of self-autonomy when she recently said this: "There doesn't need to be a God for me. There's already something in people that's godlike. I don't feel like I should do things because people in a book tell me to."

Angelina Jolie is fallen like the rest of us. We all need a Savior. To reject God or the only Savior, our merciful Redeemer is deluded and nonsensical. Look around the world. The kings and nations would do well to bow to their Creator King, Jesus Christ. Look at the chaos and confusion that has come from this grand delusion of self-rule. Look, you can't rule yourself effectively. You make bad decisions.

*Absurdity of Opposing Jesus*

There is a grand irrationality in opposing Jesus. We see the kings and leaders and nations of the world raging against God and his Christ. They are going the wrong way. They think they are capable of guiding their own lives and the lives of nations. But they're not the only ones. We all want to believe we are something that we're not. This is the grandest delusion in the history of mankind, yet we all participate in it.

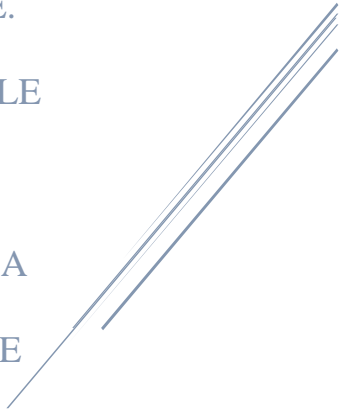
This was especially true in the time of Jesus. Herod the Great, Pontius Pilate and Herod Antipas plotted together to destroy the Lord. They felt fettered and chained by his great power. They plotted his death. They succeeded. It was all in vain because he rose from the dead. You can't oppose the Almighty. You can't keep the Son of God with infinite power down.

So why? Why did Pontius Pilate and the Romans rage against Christ? It's all futile. The answer the apostles gave is in Acts 4:26 is that they were gathered "to do whatever God's hand and plan had predestined to take place."

Those who crucified Christ were going the wrong way. They were opposing Christ. They beat him. They rejected him. They raged against him. Yet their opposition did not hinder God's plan at all. In fact their rebellion was part of God's plan.

Our sin and the sin of our nation is a dark backdrop of the breath-taking mercy of God. The kings of the earth oppose God and his Anointed King. The rulers, prime

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ministers, all government officials, even mothers and fathers counsel together against the Lord.

### *Jesus is the Most Wise King*

Why is it so absurd that anyone would oppose Jesus? Because Jesus is the most Wise King. But our nation and world don't think Jesus is wise. We see that today on a national level. Anything goes. Laws are changing that directly oppose the law of God. Marriage is up for grabs. Gender is up for grabs. The life of a baby in the womb is up for grabs. The structure of home and family are torn down. They oppose the Lord and his Anointed King. They won't refuse to follow the most merciful plan there is for our nation and our families.

### *Jesus is the Most High King*

Why is it so absurd that anyone would oppose Jesus? Because here is the highest ranking king ever conceived of. He's your Creator King. Everything that was made was made by him. Yes. You were made by this King. And this King is a merciful King. He descended from heaven, born of Mary the virgin, born to die for you and me.

### *Jesus is the Most Gracious King*

Why is it so absurd that anyone would oppose Jesus? Because he's the most gracious king. He's given his life for the sins of the world. Resisting Jesus makes no sense.

## **WHY RESIST GOD'S CORDS? (2:3)**

Listen to their plan, "Let us **burst their bonds apart** and cast away their cords from us" (2:3). What **bonds** are we talking about? What chains (**cords**) are so constraining? What **barriers** are so confining? What is fettering pop culture in the USA and around the world? Might I mention a few barriers that are keeping our culture from total self-destruction? Barriers are good. Chains are good. When you have a rabid dog, be glad he's on a chain. When you have locks on your house or fences around your yard, it bring protection. We should praise God for these boundaries that the rebellious nations call "bonds" and "cords" or fetters.

### *Don't Break the Cords of Conscience*

Praise God for the conscience. Don't break the cords of **conscience**. Yet today, people say: anything goes. Don't listen to your conscience. I will tell you this: if you want a joyful life, keep your conscience clean. Keep short accounts with God. Don't "lean to your own understanding" or trust your heart (Prov 3:5b). Heighten your holiness with the Word of God.

It's not ok to do something just because everyone is doing it even if they are Christians. I am begging you church of God don't just listen to anything on the radio. Listen to the best music. Fill your heart and mind with the best theology in songs.

Don't watch just anything on TV or media. Glorify God with your conscience. If you are married, romance should be in your marriage and never outside the knowledge of your spouse. Keep your conscience clean. Don't break the **cords** of your conscience or you will be sorry.

Don't excuse sins in your life. You can't talk any way you want to talk. Anger and bitterness are paralyzing fruits of the flesh. Fits of rage will kill your walk in the Spirit. Don't excuse bad behavior or you will dull your conscience.

### *Don't Break the Cords of Creation*

Here's another thing. Don't break the cords of **God's order of creation**. He created man and woman to be married for life. If you have a lust problem, God can cleanse you from it.

Don't divorce because your spouse is not making you happy. God hates divorce (Mal 2:16). He hates it. Jesus said in Mark 10:9, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Anything goes today. God's cords are truly being broken in every realm of a just society. Laws are being adopted that directly oppose the law of God. Marriage is up for grabs. Gender is up for grabs. The life of a baby in the womb is up for grabs. The structure of home and family are torn down. They oppose the Lord and his Anointed King. They won't refuse to follow the most merciful plan there is for our nation and our families.

God is gracious and he knows exactly how our society will best function and be the happiest. We will be happy as we submit to King Jesus.

### **WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE? (2:1-3)**

So let's summarize the first three verses and give an answer to this question. **Why do the nations rage?** Why is the whole of humanity bent on going the wrong way? Why do the kings of the earth make their self-focused plans and bypass Christ at every moment? Why are there times child of God when you bypass Christ? Why do you forget him? Why do you ignore him? **We don't want to admit that we need his amazing grace more than we need air or food or water.** Why do the very people, who on Sunday morning sing songs about God's magnificent grace work so hard to deny their need of it during the week? Why do we run from falling on our knees every morning and shouting, "Thank you for your sweet mercy Lord? Thank you for your grace." Instead we take on all the problems of life all by ourselves like the rest of the world.

Isn't it true that there are thousands of Christians all around us who get up and live in this heretical delusion? They resist the merciful Christ. How do they do this? They are terrified of actually admitting, "I am in massive need of grace! There's no hope for me but grace! I have nothing in myself. *Nothing in my hands I bring, only to thy cross I cling.* "Without you, Jesus, God's Anointed King, I can do nothing" (Jn 15:5, *paraphrase*). I've personally have to stop chafing against my own utter inability and weakness to do anything without Christ.

Why do the nations rage? They don't want to admit their need of grace. They are going the wrong way. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet 5:5; *cf* Isa 57:15). If you are not fully aware that you are in desperate need of Christ's amazing grace and mercy for life and eternity, you are going the wrong way.

**Transition:** Now we come to another sign. It's the stop sign.

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## 2. STOP (2:4-6)

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### STOP AND HEAR GOD'S LAUGHTER (2:4)

In verses 4-6, the scene changes to the secret conference room of Jehovah. God “**sits in the heavens.**” Stop and pay attention. Here is the Judge of all the earth, and he shall do right (Gen 18:25).

Israel often heard the scornful laugh of a superpower mocking its trust in Jehovah (*cf* 2 Kings 18–19). Psalm 2 reminds us of another laugh that resounds around a higher court.<sup>1</sup> Here we have the voice of God the Father. But we hear no words at first. Only divine laughter. “**He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision**” (2:4). God laughs. This is not a laugh of mirth, because rebellion is not funny. This is a laugh of incredulity at the arrogance of man. Little man dares to raise a clenched fist in the face of Almighty God? A holy God looks down from heaven upon little man and laughs with incredulity at such arrogance.

“What is man that you are mindful of him?” (Psa 8:4). God “makes foolish the wisdom of the wise” (1 Cor 1:20). This is the laughter of astonishment because of something so incredibly ridiculous. Look at the kings of the earth. They crucified God's King.

**Bypassing the most amazing grace from the highest king** is so irrational and tragic, it is **laughable**. Here God has a painful laugh. It is the laugh of when you hear something so enormously insane and tragic and absurd. It is so beyond reason, you cannot even speak but instead only laugh in unbelief.

God says, “All day long I spread out my hands to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own imaginations” (Isa 65:2). The kings of the earth and rulers bypass the merciful Christ. This is contemptible. It's as if God is saying, “What! You think you are so wise, but you bypass my Son. You say you are a ruler, but reject the most gracious ruler of all, my Son, anointed to save you?” To bypass the one whom the Father loves is shocking. Appalling. Scandalous. Outrageous.

One day Christ will return and all will bow to him as absolute ruler over all creation. When he arrives, rebellion ends. On that day, his will is done on earth as it is in heaven because the heavenly King has come to earth. The power of heaven is on earth. All the saints of God can see this clearly in their hearts and greatly await that day.

Man who so desperately needs God is foolish enough to turn from him and rebel against him. The time will come when man will realize his folly, but it will be too late. The Judgment Day is a late date to bow before God's King. You must do it now.

**God may laugh in condemnation, but for the kings of the earth, this is no laughing matter.**

### STOP AND CONSIDER GOD'S FURY (2:5)

“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 [enthroned] my King on Zion, my holy hill” (2:5–6).

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<sup>1</sup> John Goldingay, *Psalms for Everyone, Part 1: Psalms 1–72*, Old Testament for Everyone (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press; Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2013), 11.



Look, if you bypass God's mercy, what do you get? You get God's justice. You pay for your sins yourself. If you bypass God's love and mercy, you get his fury. Stop. Consider the consequences of your actions. God's wrath and fury will put you in hell.

This isn't just any wrath and fury. It's fury that **terrifies kings**. The Roman emperors Augustus, Caligula, and Nero claimed divinity, as did most all the Caesars of Rome. All those Roman rulers will be shown to be mere weak men. They will tremble at the wrath of God. This is a wrath that on that Judgment Day will terrify **kings**.

It's wrath that terrifies whole **nations**. If you are lost here today, you would be wise to stop bypassing Jesus and embrace him. Consider this. Jesus says, "I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20). How gracious and humble our Savior is. But listen, if you reject God's beloved Son, and refuse to hear him,<sup>2</sup> you have only to await God's **wrath** and **fury**. God says in **Deuteronomy 32:22**, "The fire of my anger is kindled, and it shall burn to the lowest hell." Truly "our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:29).

### STOP AND RECOGNIZE GOD'S KING (2:6)

Now we see who all need to bow before. God enthrones his King. "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 [enthroned] my King on Zion, my holy hill" (2:5-6). This "is the centerpiece, the answer awaited in verses 1-5 and expounded in 8-12."<sup>3</sup>

The Lord Jesus is exalted to the right hand of the Father, has all power both in heaven and in earth, and is head over all things to the church. As we read in **Ephesians 1:20-21**, God "seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come." The Father has enthroned him in this position and given him a Name above every other name, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven [angelic] and on earth [human] and under the earth [deemonic],<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:10-11). But the nations rage against this enthronement.

Why do the nations rage against Christ's enthronement? They hate the King that God has enthroned. And they feel they have good reason to hate him. They don't want to recognize God's King. Why?

#### *To Recognize Christ as King is to Admit Failure*

The nations of the earth don't want to recognize God's King because to do that, they would have to admit they are total failures. They can't save their nations because they need saving themselves.

I know you understand this. When you are confronted with your failure you only have one or two options: you work very hard in the face of your failure to convince yourself you're actually something. What a lie. You as a human being are an image bearer. You bear God's image. You are a mirror. You are not God.

The people of the earth think they are important. They inflate themselves and live as if they are the center of the universe. They work hard at believing what they important.

<sup>2</sup> Luke 9:35

<sup>3</sup> Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1-72: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 15, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 67.

All people of the earth do this. But late at night when they are alone on their bed, they realize they are nothing. They don't want to face it. All that we do does not improve our situation for eternity. I am powerless to help myself. I am powerless to deal with my biggest problem. I am a sinner, and I am not God. I am never going to get away with my self-rule. I need God's King to do right and love God. I need him. This world doesn't want to serve Christ because they believe a lie that they are important and can solve their own problems.

### *To Recognize Christ as King is to Admit the Truth About Yourself*

If you recognize Christ as King, you have to admit that you are totally helpless to save yourself. Admit it: you are nothing. Christ is everything. There is no middle ground. Confess that you are nothing and in desperate need of help. So stop! Stop living as if you are the king. There is only one King, and its not you. It's all about Jesus!

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## 3. ONE WAY (2:7-9)

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We come to another signpost: **one way**. There is only one way to heaven, one way to access the Father, and that is through Jesus Christ.

In this section, Jesus, Messiah the King is speaking (verses 7-9). Here the Messiah King recounts God's divine decree to make him the King of kings and Lord of lords. He's been given the Name above all other names: Jesus we bow before you. We worship you. All authority is yours. You are the only way to the Father. One way!

<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 [shepherd] them with a rod [scepter] of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Jesus made it simple for us in the book of **John 14:6** where he said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

### **ONE WAY BECAUSE OF SONSHIP (2:7)**

First, we see Jesus is only one way to the Father because he has **special access** to God as his Son. He's God's rightful heir. "**I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'**" (2:7). The Father says, "*You are the King because you are my Son, my heir, possessing all the divine attributes and have the divine right to rule and reign. I have installed you because you are my beloved Son. I want you to rule over a people I am redeeming.*" God sent his Son in order to bring sinners into his family. He rules as Son of God and wants to enlarge the family of God.

Now as I said, this was written by David and would have been read for David and all the kings of Judah on their coronation day. **They were adopted as sons of God to rule as a representative of God.** But they were flawed and mere men – **broken** and **sinful** and prone to wander. We know the greater King these verses are talking about. There is a King who is both divine and human. This divine Son became human in order to bring a family of nations into his own family.

We need to follow God's king and stop trying to build our own kingdom. *The verdict is out*: all mankind is and does amounts to **nothing**. At the end of the day we are lonely orphans without Christ. We can pretend with our positions and politics, our money and power. We can be elected to the highest offices. But God's decree is clear: you have everything and be nothing if you don't have Christ.

Christ is everything. You are nothing. There is not middle ground. The verdict of God's Word is that you are a failure and that Christ is the Victor. Daily life also informs me of the same. I am a failure and I need a Savior. When you begin to admit who you actually are: a sinner, a failure, a rebel – it is only then that you begin to rest in the mercy of God's King. Are you recognizing that you are a rebel and alienated from God unless you have God's King. See God's King can bring you into his family. Through Christ you become a member of the household of God.

### **ONE WAY BECAUSE OF OWNERSHIP (2:8)**

Second, we see Jesus is only one way to the Father, because God has given him as Son the inheritance of all things. God says to his Son, "**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession**" (2:8). They all belong to him. The idea of world domination is here expressed.

Jesus said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**" (Mt 28:18). His rule covers the entire earth. No square inch of real estate is outside his authority. There are no borders or foreign lands or territories yet to be conquered.

### **ONE WAY BECAUSE OF RULERSHIP (2:9)**

Third, Jesus is the only way because of his rulership. He is designated as the Judge of all the earth. He decides our eternities. Jesus will be gracious to those who submit and violent against those kings who rebel. "**You shall break them with a rod [scepter] of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel**" (2:9). Those who repent will be spared from God's judgement, even though we deserve it. But those who will not wake up to God's grace will one day wake up in hell.

There will come a day when God will separate the sheep and the goats. The Father has promised the Son complete victory over the nations, which means that one day He will reign over all the kingdoms of the world and determine their destiny. For the wicked, he will break their rebellious hearts and shatter them like a fragile flower pot. We can read about this day in Revelation 19:11ff.

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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:11-16).

There's that name. God's King. King of kings. Lord of lords. He's the one way to grace and mercy.

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## 4. YIELD (2:10-12)

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Now we see what we need to do: yield. That's the last signpost this morning. Yield to God's King.

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve [worship] the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss [do homage] 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.

### SURRENDER TO GOD'S KING (2:10)

The only way ever to get to the good news, where Christ as king is not boring but the most exciting thing in your life, is if you are willing to accept the bad news. Here's the bad news: you are a failure at ruling. Here's the glorious news: Christ has been designated as your King. Now if God designated him as your king, it would be good to follow and obey him. So be wise and be warned! That's what David says:

**"Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth"** (2:10). Accept the bad news. Accept that you cannot rule yourself. You were never made to rule this world on your own. We are all image bearers (**Gen 1:26**, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"). We are all to be God's ambassadors. We represent the king, but we are not the king. So be **warned**. Be **wise**.

What should I do? We are given two admonitions in how we can yield to God's King this morning: serve the King and submit to the King.

### SERVE GOD'S KING (2:11)

Admonition one, worship the King. "Serve [worship] the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling" (2:11). Fear Him. Revere him. Rejoice because of him. Tremble before him. We get this. But do we really? We are all glory thieves. We want to rule our own kingdom. You have to give that up. It doesn't matter how messed up you are, if you are in Christ you can change. You can treat your spouse right. You can be respectful to your boss. The word "serve" means to worship God in every area of life by serving him in everything. Everything is sacred now. Your job, your home, the way you dress and eat, what you watch, how you talk. Everything is worship to Christ. So worship Christ "with fear and rejoice with trembling" in everything you do! Glorify him in everything you do. Serve him with clean hands and a pure heart.

### SUBMIT TO GOD'S KING (2:12)

Admonition two, kiss the King. Pay homage to him. Submit to him. Bow before him. "**Kiss [do homage] the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled...**" (2:12a). Failure to do these things will result in His anger and wrath being kindled against them ending in their death.

These are very strong warnings! Yet, the psalm ends on a positive note for those who show wisdom. For those who take refuge under the King will be blessed. The equation is pretty simple therefore: rage or refuge. Wrath or blessing. I can either **rage** against the King and experience his wrath, OR I can take **refuge** in the King and experience blessing. **"Blessed are all who take refuge in him"** (2:12b). Can you testify that Jesus is faithful?

### **Conclusion**

Here's the message of Psalm 2 for all the kings of the earth and everyone here today: I don't have to pretend anymore. I am a mess. I am a rebel. I am not important. I am nothing. I am a failure. I don't have to run away in fear. I don't have to shout in anger. I don't have to hide in shame. I don't have to crumble in my guilt. I don't have to be something. Because my rest and my refuge is not in the fact that I'm something, my rest and refuge is in the fact that Jesus is everything. He's everything dear saints. He's God's King, and he's my King. Sweet Jesus you are my King!