

Psalm 2

Title: The Reign of Jehovah's Anointed

Author and Date: David (see Acts 4:25)

Key Verse: Psalm 2:2

Outline

- A. The actions of the nations: raging rebellion (verses 1-3).
- B. The actions of Jehovah: royal ruling (verses 4-6).
- C. The instructions to the anointed one: sovereign Sonship (verses 7-9).
- D. The instructions to the nations: submissive service (verses 10-12).

Notes

Verse 1: The first two verses of this psalm are quoted by the early church and applied to the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans and Jews (Acts 4:25-26).

Verse 2: "Jehovah" (found in some Bible versions like the ASV) comes from the Heb. *Yahweh* and refers to God's eternal being (Ex. 3:14-15). Other versions use "LORD" for *Yahweh* (eternal one) and "Lord" for *Adonai* (master).

Verse 2: "Anointed" comes from the Heb. *mashiach* (messiah) meaning "anointed one". Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed in the Old Testament. Jesus is Jehovah's "anointed" (Messiah in Heb. and Christ in Greek; Mt. 1:1, 18; Mk. 1:1; Jn. 1:17; etc.). Psalm 2 is the first of several prophetic "Messianic Psalms".

Verses 6-9: These verses apply to Jehovah's anointed (Jesus) as he rules as king. See Psalm 110:1-7 for the other messianic psalm that focuses on Jesus as king.

Verse 7: This verse is quoted by Paul in Antioch and applied to the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 13:33). It is also quoted by the author of Hebrews and applied to the deity of Jesus (Heb. 1:5) and the high priesthood of Jesus (Heb. 5:5).

Verse 9: This verse ("a rod of iron") is not directly quoted, but it is referenced by John in Revelation and applied to both Christians (2:26-27) and Jesus (12:5; 19:15).

Verses 10-12: The words "Now therefore" form a concluding thought. The people who rage and rebel are instructed to do five things: 1) be wise, 2) be instructed, 3) serve with fear, 4) rejoice with trembling, and 5) kiss the son. The words "Kiss the son" refer to kissing the hand or feet (RSV) as an act of homage (NASV) or submission (NLT). All are truly "blessed" or happy (see Psa. 1:1) who "take refuge in him".

Questions

1. What do the nations do against Jehovah and his anointed (verses 1-2)?
2. What do the nations say against Jehovah and his anointed (verse 3)?
3. What will Jehovah do against the nations (verses 4-5)?
4. Who has Jehovah set up to rule over the nations and how is he described (verses 6-9)?
5. What five things are the nation's leaders instructed to do (verses 10-12)?

Applications for Today

1. The godly "meditate" on God's law (Psa. 1:2), while the ungodly "meditate" on how they can rebel against God (verse 1). What things does Paul say to meditate on (Phil. 4:8)?
2. When the world today rages and rebels against Jesus, don't be discouraged; be bold and turn to the Lord in prayer like the early church did (verses 1-2). What did the early Christians do when they were persecuted (Acts 4:23-31)?
3. Many people still rage and rebel against God and his Son; they don't want to be under God's authority or obey the gospel (verses 1-3). How do some people react to the preaching of the gospel (Acts 16:22; 17:5-6; 19:28ff)? What will happen to those who do not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:8-9)?
4. The raging and rebelling of mankind against God is futile and brings one to ruin (verses 4-5). What does the psalmist say about people who rebel (Psa. 37:12-13; 59:8-15)?

5. Jesus is not just a man, he is the one and only supreme ultimate ruler. Jesus is Jehovah's anointed (Christ), Jehovah's king, and Jehovah's son (verses 6-9). What do Matthew and Mark write concerning Jesus (Mt. 1:1, 18; 2:2; Mk. 1:1)?

6. Jesus' kingship and his gospel extend over all the earth (verse 8). What people are under the authority of Jesus (Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 17:14)?

7. True freedom comes by serving the Lord and submitting to him, not by raging and rebelling against him (verses 10-12). What are Christians told to do with one another and with God (Gal. 5:1, 13; Heb. 12:28-29; 1 Pet. 2:16-17)?

8. Psalm 2 ends the way Psalm 1 begins. All who obey the Lord are truly "blessed" or happy (verse 12). What is the ultimate reward of the "blessed" one (Rev. 22:14)?