

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

➡ **The nations, the kings, the empires, the peoples rage & rise up & rebel against GOD, and against HIS CHRIST and against His TRUTH!**

- Wickedness abounds. Lawlessness increases. And yet, there's nothing new under the sun.
- Everyone did what was right in his own eyes (from worship, to desires, to family life, to marriage, to sex, to pursuits, lifestyle)
 - God calls for leadership of integrity, courage, faithfulness, and justice -- *and so often* we bewail the fact that there is great deceptiveness, cowardice, faithlessness, and INJustice! **Where to go? Can anyone relate?**
- When rulers REBEL, when the people protest, when the masses MOCK, when the population screams for autonomy from Christ & from Jehovah -- *what must we do?*
- We must heed the **eternal truths of God's sufficient Word in Ps 2.**
 - Here we find God's sufficient Truth regarding Christ's unmoved Kingship, by the Spirit's loving grace for us to be comforted, equipped, courageous & unflinching in this dark & depraved hour.

Background to Psalm 2

- There's a long & old tradition that Pss 1-2 were united early one. Psalms 1-2 -- introduction to the Psalter// Israel's hymnbook
 - Ps 1 = WISDOM in the WORD
 - Ps 2 = WORSHIP of the LORD
- DAVID wrote Psalm 2 (Acts 4.25 & see also Acts 13)
 - **For us:** NOTE the psalm begins with the ungodly leaders, kings & rulers (v.1-2) & it ends with a gospel plea to them (v.10-12)
 - It shows the holiness of God & the missionary heart of God!

THESIS — We wanna have God centered thoughts, Christ-exalting pursuits, and Spirit-empowered conduct.

HOW? — What must we know HOW to live this way in a dark, depraved society?

What do we learn about a hostile world, a sovereign God & the Glorious Christ?

1. The Rebellion of the Nations [1-3]
2. The Rebuke of the LORD [4-6]
3. The Rulership of the Christ [7-9]
4. The Reconciliation to the Son [10-12]

I. THE REBELLION OF THE NATIONS! (1-3)

They really revolt against GOD!

Expect it! Remember what God has said:

- ✓ **Prov 19.3** — “the foolish man's heart *rages* against the LORD
- ✓ **Prov 11.3** — “the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them

- ✓ **Isa 8.21** — unbelievers are enraged and curse...their God as they face upward'
- ✓ **Rom 3.18** – ‘there is NO fear of God before their eyes’
 - A. The nations ... peoples (these are governmental, societal, national, widespread)!
 - B. V.2- kings & rulers counsel together > can't agree on much except one thing: *we join together against Jehovah & against Jesus Christ.*
 - 1. Remember this encouragement from Luther: The rage of the enemies is NOT aimed at us, but at the LORD and His Christ. They can only reach us thru Him!
 - C. V.3 - they say: “lets tear the chains of God! & cast their cords from us!”
 - 1. All of this is as old as the Garden of Eden! The rebellion against the rule of God!
 - 2. **Consider:** Nimrod, Pharaoh, the new King in Egypt who did not know God, Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus Epiphanes, Belshazzar, herod the Great, Nero, Herod Antipas, Diocletian, Stalin, Hitler, Biden
 - a) This all was demonstrated in the arrest, trials, condemnation of the Son of God at the hands of Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod. v.3 - these were verbally chanted in the presence of GOD HIMSELF: "We will not have this man to rule over us" (Luke 19:14).
 - b) Wanna be free, independent, autonomous!
 - c) the wicked don't just **abandon** God's laws, they wanna **ABOLISH** GOD HIMSELF.
 - d) they're not happy to merely **disobey** God, they wanna **DESTROY** HIM & HIS RULE.
 - 3. **Please hear this!** Observe carefully the language: let us cast off **THEIR** chains and let us cast off **THEIR** fetters. >> see the close connection between Jehovah & the Messiah.
 - D. In the late 3 and early 4th centuries, the Roman emperor **DIOCLETIAN** (245-313AD) -- a great enemy of Christianity bragged in this phrase: "The Name of Christianity being EXTINGUISHED".
 - 1. as he traveled and expanded the Roman empire westward he erected monuments bragging that HE had 'extinguished the name of Christians...' & even elsewhere: "he 'abolished the superstition of Christ". **But he passed. He died. Roman empire has expired.**

At the rebellion of the nations, what does GOD DO?

II. **THE REBUKE OF THE LORD!** (4-6)

In all of this global/political rebellion: "The confidence of God's people rests in GOD HIMSELF, who is unmoved by the political uprisings on earth".

The unmoved & sovereign GOD sees & He mocks them in anger.

- A. Remember the ‘kings of the earth (v.2), see how God is described: “HE WHO SITS in the heavens” -- see the contrast! Heaven’s King is unmoved by earth’s rebellions.
 - 1. All the hostilities of earth’s kings cannot disturb the heavenly Lord!
- B. V.4- God laughs...scoffs.
 - 1. God laughs --- divine derision, Majestic mockery, consecrated contempt.
 - 2. MEN boldly shake their fists against heaven but this is so foolish, even insane, that GOD laughs at them.
 - a) *it's as silly & foolish as a **small wax candle** arrogantly saying to the **SUN**, the great, mass & ball of fire, "I WILL DESTROY YOU". Ha -- what puny efforts!*
 - b) God doesn't worry. He doesn't bite his fingernails. He's not concerned or anxious.
- C. V.5- God speaks in anger & terrifies them in his hot/fury.

1. Let your theology of God *include* God's **wrath**. God is wrathful because he's GOOD. He is good because He is righteous. He is infinitely wrathful, good & righteous because He is a GOD of LOVE (love of himself/divinity supremely!).
2. God's anger is "Burning anger" (Isa 13.13), "fierce anger" (Jer 4.8), "an anger that will not turn back" (Jer 23.20), the wrath of God comes with 'flooding rain, hailstones which consume in wrath' (Ezek 13.13), God's wrath will come "in full strength in the cup of his anger" upon the wicked (Rev 14.10). **Let all the wicked be warned!**
- D. V.6- As for me...[*emphatic*] - **I** have installed/established/ordained **MY KING** (not an earthly king, but **MY KING**) upon Zion (not just an earthly throne, not the White house, not Parliament, not the King's residence, or the Prime Minister's Palace!)
 1. I ... I myself have established MY KING >> God's working, doing, sovereignty, establishing! *No ruler can undo God's doings.*
 - a) HE HIMSELF IS HEAVEN'S SUPREME COURT!

III. THE RULERSHIP OF THE CHRIST! (7-9)

God establishes ONE KING -- Jesus Christ!

Now we have the words of God's chosen King (v.6b)--Messiah!

- A. V.7- here is God's *decree* [=document of legitimacy/formality]
 1. **"You are my SON & Today I have begotten you"**
 2. Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5 & 5:5 = Christ Jesus!
 - a) This Messiah, Christ, is the God-appointed KING, the SON (equal in worth, equal in identity) of God, he is the most exalted Ruler!
 - b) the phrase: "TODAY, I have begotten you..." refers to Christ's resurrection of the Dead by which he was undeniably proven as the SON OF GOD (Rom 1.4)
- B. V.8- See God's utter Kingship & the unhindered triumph of Christ!
 1. The nations as Christ's inheritance & ends of the earth
 2. **READ Col 1:15-20 & Eph 1:21-23!!**
- C. V.9- God gives Christ authority to break & shatter rebels.
 1. v.9- you will **shatter** them. *It's intensive, more emphatic, more urgent/severe action!
 2. Christ has an IRON SCEPTER -- he will crush & smash & seize & slaughter all his enemies.
 - a) Christ will shatter them like a man crushing & shattering a small clay pot into countless pieces (**effortlessly!**). Behold the power of God's Son!
- D. What we just looked at points to a connection in Revelation:
 - ▶ Remember Revelation 17:12-13 --- there will be a confederacy of 10-kings on earth who will join themselves with the AntiChrist for 7 years -- and they will (Rev 17.14) -- wage war against the LAMB and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is LORD of lords and KING of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful!"
 - ▶ At the 2nd coming of Christ, the beast (antichrist) and the kings of the earth and their armies were assembled to make war against CHRIST who sat on the horse and against His army (believers).
 - ▶ but the beast was seized, the false prophet & they were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire
 - ▶ and the rest were killed with the sword that comes out of his mouth (Rev 19.21).
 - ▶ connecting Rev 19 & ps 2, when Christ comes, Rev 19.15 -- he rules the enemies with a rod of iron; and he treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. *This ruler smashes & crushes His enemies like fragile pottery under the ferocious anger that He RIGHTLY has toward their SIN & REBELLION against Him.*
 - ▶ "Christ will consign them to his relentless wrath in hell forever"
 - a) **So what can be done??? Is there hope available?**

IV. THE RECONCILIATION TO THE SON! (10-12)

See GOD's heart & how he WARNS and ADMONISHES. It's **loving** to do so!

- A. v.10-12 - note God's evangelistic heart:
- B. There is an escape from hellfire! There is one path to safety! **How does God model for us the PLEA (evangelistic/missional heart) to UNBELIEVERS to be reconciled to the SON? 4 ways...**
1. **God talks directly to the sinners! (O kings...) - go to them & speak!**
 2. **God warns them with urgent love! (Be wise ... Be warned...; now!)**
 3. **God summons them to submit to Christ! (Serve, Rejoice, KISS the SON!)**
 - a) What does this mean/include? To **submit**?
 1. **View** Him Biblically
 2. **Worship** Him Humbly
 3. **Surrender** to Him Uncompromisingly
 4. **Fear** Him Willingly

Paul used v.11 in Phil 2.12 - work out your salvation w/ fear & trembling!
 4. **God presents the only sufficient Refuge! (blessed/happy are all who take refuge in Him)**
 - a) Forgiveness of sins! Protection from coming, fiery anger. Communion with God, life everlasting, undying hope & joy & peace. O RUN to this refuge & be safe!
- C. What a most glorious & gracious invitation to rebels!
- D. God's invitation to sinners to be reconciled to the Son...
- ✓ **GENUINE** invitation (a real, genuine offer/summons!)
 - ✓ **URGENT** invitation (NOW..not tomorrow, *today!*)
 - ✓ v.12 --- his anger can QUICKLY... can be translated: "Unexpectedly"
 - ✓ **EXCLUSIVE** invitation (take refuge IN HIM)
 - ✓ **HONEST** invitation (tell all the truth // submission)
 - ✓ **DEMANDING** invitation (kiss...bow...worship...serve...submit)
 - ✓ **PROMISING** invitation (blessed...those who take refuge!)
 - a) There is NO refuge from CHRIST -- there is *ONLY* refuge *IN* Christ. Don't let him *catch* you in His anger; be delivered *FROM* his anger! Today! Now! Come! He invites you!
 - b) Have you kissed the hands that were NAILED FOR YOU?
 - c) His hands are stretched out INVITING YOU TO COME!
 - d) COME! KISS! See the wounded hands. The soul crushed by His Father.
 - e) Behold the one who became "SIN" and "a CURSE" for you! in love!

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Leaders & Kings rise & fall. Empires have passed. Emperors are gone. But there is ONE KING and one glorious KINGDOM that endures!
 - *NO coalition of human powers is a threat to God's almighty rule*