

# **Psalm 2**

## **God's Rule Over the Nations.**

Introduction:

Psalm 1 deals with the word, Psalm 2, deals with the world. Psalm 1 contrasts the righteous with the ungodly; Psalm 2 contrasts the nations with their divine ruler. Psalm 1 deals with personal life, Psalm 2 deals with the outside world. Psalm 1 addresses the particular; Psalm 2 addresses the universal

In a certain sense, Psalms 1 and 2 serve as an introduction to the entire book of Psalms. They alert us to the fact that the scriptures do not just speak to our inner devotional life and personal destiny, but also to the whole purpose of God in history and the future of the nations or the world as we know it.

The Bible reveals God's plan and purpose for us as individuals and God's plan and purpose for the nations. It reveals what happens when people individually oppose and reject God's rule, and also what happens when people band together in their opposition and rejection of God's rule.

It is this second element that Psalm 2 addresses specifically. Namely, what happens when people form alliances in opposition to God's Rule.

It is essential that as Christians we formulate a Christian world view. That simply means that we come to understand how we are to view all of life through the lens of Scripture.

That we are able to understand God's working and purposes. That we look at this world and rest in God's decrees and interventions in accordance with His sovereign rule.

We need to be convinced of God's providence at work in all of the natural events and social order that manifests itself in our day and the days to come..

Theme: God's rule over the nations cannot be overthrown.

While the primary application to this Psalm is the period during the millennial reign of Christ, the general application is true for all times.

Article 27 - The Kingdom of God

27-1 God is the almighty Sovereign who reigns eternally over all His creation.<sup>1</sup> His kingdom triumphs forever according to His will. Even the sinful rebellion of mankind cannot defeat Him, but instead serves and glorifies Him.<sup>2</sup>

27-2 God's plan, demonstrated throughout human history, has been to reveal His kingship on earth by delegating kingly dominion to human beings as His image bearers.<sup>3</sup> Through Adam's fall the exercise of this dominion has been corrupted, and man needs redemption in order to glorify God and reign in accordance with His will. As the Last Adam, Jesus in His humanity manifests the proper vice-regency of the kingdom of God for the purpose of redemption and restoration, which will ultimately usher in the glorious kingdom for which creation was destined.<sup>4</sup> Thus, the kingdom of God is advanced in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and His present reign.<sup>5</sup> Acknowledging this reign, Christians confess Christ as Lord and willingly submit to His rulership in their personal lives and welcome His authority over all creation.<sup>6</sup>

27-3 The millennial reign of Christ is a further advancement of the kingdom whereby Jesus, through His second coming, brings His inaugurated kingdom to earth and makes it visible. During this reign, Christ will fulfil kingdom promises as He establishes righteousness, justice and peace throughout all creation.<sup>7</sup> At the start of this period, saints will be resurrected bodily to join in the reign with Christ. Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities suspended. Nevertheless an undercurrent of human sinful resistance will continue through the millennium, though held in check as Christ rules with a rod of iron. At the end of this millennial reign, Satan will be released to lead a rebellion against God's people and the Lord Jesus. In a climactic manifestation of His kingship, Christ will defeat the rebellion.<sup>8</sup>

Key verse: Psalm 2:1 (ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

- I. The leaders gather collectively to rebel against God.
  - A. The nature of the leaders rebellion. They take a position "against" or in opposition to the Lord.

Psalm 2:2 (ESV) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, **against** the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
  - B. The reason for the rebellion.
    1. They do not want to be submissive to God, His kingdom, His kingship, or His laws. They see submission to God as bondage, His sovereignty as restrictive, and His will as demeaning.

Psalm 2:3 (ESV) “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

2. The second reason for rebellion.

The nations want autonomy, self-rule, They want freedom from any attachment to God. Responding to the serpent's whisper to Eve in the garden, they want to be like God, they want to be their own god.

Psalm 2:3 (ESV) “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

## II. God's response to the rebellious nations.

- A. God laughs at the rebellious nations for their foolishness in opposing his rule.

1. God's throne is not in danger. He is not threatened.

Psalm 2:4 (ESV) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

- a. God's sitting in heaven is an imagery of God sitting upon his throne and those around Him are His own.

Psalm 2:4 (ESV) **He who sits in the heavens** laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

- b. As the nations shout their threats He laughs it off.

Psalm 2:4 (ESV) He who sits in the heavens **laughs**; the Lord holds them in derision.

2. Application:

- a. God is not worried by the opposition of the governing authorities nor should we.
- b. God is not threatened. His sovereign rule is not in jeopardy. The outcome is not uncertain.

- c. We are headed upon a collision course in this world. The non-believing world is going to rise up in clear opposition to God.
  - d. We should not be surprised nor amazed at the increasing hostility that is being demonstrated against Christianity.
- B. God's second response to the rebellious nations is to rebuke them in his anger.

Though God is laughing, He is not amused

1. God breathes out threats against the nations.

Psalm 2:5 (ESV) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

2. God has enthroned his king.

Psalm 2:6 (ESV) "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

3. God's king is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 2:7 (ESV) I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Hebrews 1:1 (ESV) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

Hebrews 1:2 (ESV) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:4 (ESV) having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1:5 (ESV) **For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?** Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

4. God will give Christ rule over the nations

Psalm 2:8 (ESV) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

5. Christ will put down all rebellion of the nations.

Psalm 2:9 (ESV) **You shall break them with a rod of iron** and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Revelation 2:27 (ESV) and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Revelation 19:11 (ESV) 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.

Revelation 19:12 (ESV) 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.

Revelation 19:13 (ESV) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 (ESV) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

Revelation 19:15 (ESV) **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.

Revelation 19:16 (ESV) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

III. God calls the nations to repentance.

- A. The rulers of this world are called to heed the word of God.

Psalm 2:10 (ESV) Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

The kings are to stop and consider.

- B. Rather than to revolt, the leaders are called to a holy submission.

.Psalm 2:11 (ESV) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Rather, then to rebel against Christ's rule they are to gladly embrace it.

C. The nations are called to a sincere worship

Psalm 2:12 (ESV) **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.

Psa 2:12 (NIV) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

D. If they do, the nations can experience a glorious end!

Psalm 2:12 (ESV) 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.**

IV. Conclusion:

A. God will actively rule over all things in the person of Christ.

B. We should not rebel against Christ's rule.

C. To rebel against Christ's rule is futile.

D. Furthermore, to rebel against Christ's rule is detrimental to ourselves and other.

E. We should embrace Christ's rule for we are blessed in doing so.