

Psalms: The Songs of the People of God

The Arrogance of Opposing the King and the Blessedness of Refuge in Jesus
Psalm 2

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Introduction

As we come to Psalm 2 we are, in many senses, in the second part of Psalm 1. There was a time when Psalm 1 and Psalm 2 were merged together as on Psalm that served as the introduction to the Psalter. While Psalm 1 begins with *Blessed be the man*, Psalm 2 ends with the same refrain.

In Psalm 1 the emphasis is on two ways of life: The way of the righteous and the way of the wicked and how each relates to God. In the second Psalm we see a third group, the rulers of the earth that are in opposition to God. So, the big idea that connects the two Psalms is this: Those who trust God and submit to Him are blessed, but those who oppose Him will be judged.

The Context of Psalm 2

- **The Original Context:** The Psalm was most likely written around the time of the reign of King David and the main theme is the opposition of other kings to the rule of the King of Israel. But, all attempts fail.
- **The Prophetic Context:** Psalm 2 quoted in the NT more than any other Psalm because of what it teaches us about Jesus and His Kingship.

Part One: The Opposition Against the King of Israel

- **The Plan to Rebel against the Lord and His King (2:1-3)**
 - In a time when Israel had other nations under its' rule, the leaders of those nations began plotting how they could overthrow the King and gain their freedom.
 - While these rulers plotted, the Psalmist states that their efforts are in vain – no one can stand against the Lord and His Anointed One.
- **The Response of God to the Plan of Rebellion (2:4-6)**
 - While these rulers and kings plot and scheme the Lord mocks them and is filled with righteous anger. To oppose the King is to oppose God Himself because He is the One who has appointed the King.
- **The Promises of God to His Appointed King (2:7-9)**
 - Although the King is opposed, His reign is never in peril. The promises that God made to David remain in effect and extend to all of the Kings of Israel (the sons of promise) (2 Samuel 7:8-17).
 - While the King has opposition, because of the promises of the covenant he will be victorious over his enemies.

- **The Advice to All Who Would Oppose the King (2:10-12)**
 - After proving the arrogance of opposing the King, the Psalmist changes his tone. He offers advice: If you want to avoid judgment, pledge allegiance to the king.

Part Two: Jesus as the Ultimate Fulfillment of Psalm 2

Jesus as the Lord's Anointed (2:2)

The word that is translated "Anointed" is the word from which we derive the English word "Messiah." The Psalmist makes it clear from the start that he is writing about the final and eternal King of Israel.

Jesus as the One who was Opposed by the Nations and the People (But it was in vain) (2:1-3)

Jesus was hated by the world. He was sent as the Savior but he was perceived as a threat. His own people plotted and schemed and against Him and ultimately killed Him. But their efforts did not accomplish what they hoped – He rose from the dead. (Acts 4:24-28)

Jesus as the Son of God and the Heir of the Promises (2:7-9)

Jesus was declared to be the Son of God and as such becomes the true heir to the promises of God. His kingdom will be eternal, worldwide and undefeatable. (Hebrews 1:1-5; Philippians 2:9-10).

Jesus as the One Who Will Crush All of His Enemies (2:9)

While the enemies of God have been allowed to stand for now, one day He will claim His victory and all of His enemies will be crushed. In the end, He wins. (Revelation 19:11-16)

Responding to Jesus as the Eternal King (2:10-12)

- This warning and admonition was originally given to those who were opposed to the king of Israel, but it also serves as a warning to us as we consider the future reign of Jesus. Have you submitted to His authority or are you opposed to Him? Blessed are those who trust in Him.

Application: While we have the promise of a coming King we still live in a world that is opposed to Him. How do we respond to a world that is hostile toward God? How do we wait with hope for the coming king?

- Don't allow yourself to become too comfortable in this world, we live for a future kingdom
- Don't place your hope in the rulers of this world, Jesus is the only true source of hope
- Don't despair over the condition of the world, God will keep His promises, Jesus will come in victory
- Don't Be Silent – We must proclaim the hope of the coming king