

God's Prophetic Plan (In One Little Psalm) Psalm 2

Introduction:

1. Many people think of the psalms as light, devotional type of material. They think of Psalms as the book you open when life is falling apart and trouble surrounds you.
2. Many of the psalms do deal with suffering, pain, and trials. They can, indeed, be a great source of comfort and strength during difficult times. But not all the psalms are this way.
 - Some of the psalms are historical in nature, recounting events in Israel's history. Psalm 78 is a great example.
 - Some of the psalms are songs that were used in the worship services of Israel. This is the actual meaning of the word "psalm."
 - Some of the psalms are "Messianic." They deal directly with the person and work of Christ (**Luke 24:44**). Psalm 22 is a remarkable prophecy of the crucifixion of Christ.
 - Some of the psalms are prophetic in nature. They give us precise and accurate details concerning God's prophetic plan for the nation of Israel and for this earth.
3. Such is the case with Psalm 2. In this little 12 verse psalm, God reveals to us His marvelous prophetic plan concerning His Son, the earth, the nations, and the governments of this world system.
4. We get a snapshot of the entire prophetic plan in one little psalm. Let's examine it.

First, the world rejects Christ as Messiah. vs. 1-3

1. The "*heathen*" is a reference to Gentiles and the "*people*" is a reference to Israel.
2. Due to Israel's vain thinking of pride, jealousy, and envy, the kings of the earth (Gentile leaders) and the rulers (Israel's leadership), took counsel together and make a decision to reject God's anointed - the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
3. God had set forth Jesus Christ as King of the earth, to bring in blessing to Jews and Gentiles. What is the answer of the world to God's love?
 - Verse 3 - "*Let us (Jews and Gentiles) break their (Jehovah and His anointed) bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*"
 - They said in unison, "We will not have God or His anointed ruling over us. '*We have no king but Caesar*'." **John 19:15**
4. The twelve apostles quote this portion of Psalm 2 in **Acts 4:24-27** and understood it to be fulfilled in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ. Yet the wicked rulers of this world could not go one step beyond God's divine allowance. **Acts 4:28**
5. Mankind shook their fists in the face of God, took God's anointed and nailed Him to a tree.

Second, God responds to the world in wrath. vs. 4-7

1. Mankind declared war against God; now God counter-declares. The prophetic plan called for the wrath of God against this world after their rejection of Christ. vs. 4-5
 - When God is seen laughing, it is not a good thing. Laughing carries the idea of God mocking and judging the wicked. **Psalm 37:12-15, 52:5-7, 59:5, 8, 12-13**

2. On what basis could God do this? After all, it looked like Satan and his world system won the battle when they did away with Christ. God brings wrath on the basis that Christ didn't **stay** dead. He was raised the third day. **Acts 17:31**
3. Christ was raised from the dead and took His seat on the right hand of the Father in the heavenly Mount Zion as King of kings (vs. 6). Christ spoke gracious words while on earth, but will speak words of wrath and judgment from heaven to this world (vs. 4-5; **Hebrews 12:22-26; Revelation 5:1-2, 5; 6:1, 12-17**).
4. The assurance of this coming wrath is the fact that Jesus was begotten (given life) from the dead. vs. 7; cf. **Acts 13:33**
 - This was the basis of Peter's message on Pentecost to Israel. "You crucified your Messiah, and He is alive." This meant coming wrath and judgment. **Acts 2:32-36**

Third, Christ returns and establishes His kingdom on earth. vs. 8-9

1. Christ came to the earth as the babe of Bethlehem, a meek and lowly Lamb to die in love for the sins of mankind.
2. But at His Second Coming, He is returning to earth in vengeance to judge and make war with all of His enemies in this world. vs. 9; **Revelation 19:11-16; Zechariah 14:1-3**
3. Today He is the rejected and exiled King, but one day He will be the ruling King of the earth. **Zechariah 14:9, 16**
4. With strength and power, the kingdoms of this world system will be totally demolished and destroyed and then replaced with the righteous kingdom of Christ. **Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14; Matthew 25:31-32**
5. All of the world's systems, structures, and kingdoms that have been built based on the worldly wisdom of Satan are destroyed by Christ with a rod of iron. vs. 9
 - The rod was significant in Israel's beginnings. Moses carried the rod of God and it was a sign of power and authority. Aaron also had a rod and it was his rod that budded, a sign of resurrection, life, and priestly right.
 - Jesus returns with a rod of iron - He alone holds the right to rule and reign over the earth because He is the rod that budded, rising from the dead.
6. Christ will take of His resurrection life and breathe life into the nation of Israel and they will be the channel through whom Christ takes authority over this earth. **Jeremiah 10:16, 51:19-20** (Israel is said to be God's battle axe and weapon of war.)
7. All of the nations will belong to Christ, and the uttermost parts of the earth will be under His control. vs. 8; **Isaiah 11:9-10**

In Conclusion:

1. This prophetic psalm ends with a warning to the earth's leaders. vs. 10-12
2. A wise leader understands these facts and submits to Christ now. If not, when His wrath is kindled they will not enter His kingdom, but perish from the way.
3. I like the way this psalm ends, "*Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*"
4. Did you notice how the prophetic program is laid out? Christ is rejected, God's wrath is outpoured, and Christ's kingdom is established. What is missing in this? The time of grace that this earth has enjoyed for nearly 2,000 years.

5. Why isn't this time period seen in prophecy? It was a mystery, kept secret since the world began, but revealed in due time through the apostle Paul. **Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:1-6; Colossians 1:25-26; 1 Timothy 2:6-7**

BASIC TIMELINE

