

## "THE BOOK OF PSALMS"

### Psalm 2 - The Ultimate Victory of The Messiah

#### OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS PSALM

- 1) To note the Messianic nature of this psalm
- 2) To consider its fulfillment as expounded by Jesus and His apostles in the New Testament
- 3) To take comfort in knowing that the Messiah has ultimate control over world affairs

#### SUMMARY

This psalm is Messianic in nature, with its theme being "**The Ultimate Victory of The Lord's Anointed.**" It is quoted by the apostles and early church in their prayer for help against persecution (cf. **Ac 4:24-30**), in which they applied it to the efforts of Pontius Pilate along with Gentiles and those of Israel who crucified Christ. From this reference in Acts we also learn that David was the author.

The psalm is divided into four sections (or strophes), in each of which there is a different voice that speaks. The first strophe begins with the psalmist observing the efforts of the nations and their leaders to resist the Lord and His Anointed. They declare their desire to break away from the cords that bind them (**1-3**). The second strophe depicts the Lord in heaven as laughing in derision over their futile efforts. In righteous anger He declares that despite their resistance He has installed His King (i.e., His Anointed One) on Zion, His holy hill (**4-6**).

In the third stanza or strophe, the Anointed One speaks, in which He declares the decree of the Lord. He is God's begotten Son, who upon request is given the nations and ends of the earth as an inheritance which He will rule with a rod of iron (**7-9**). From Jesus and His apostles, we learn that this rule began when He ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (cf. **Mt 28:18; Ep 1:20-22; 1 Pe 3:22; Re 1:5; 2:26-27**).

The psalm ends with the fourth strophe containing the psalmist's counsel of what the leaders of the nations should do: Worship the Lord with reverence, and do homage to the Son lest they incur His righteous anger. For all who put their trust in the Anointed One, they shall be blessed (**10-12**).

## **OUTLINE**

### **I. THE NATIONS' RESISTANCE (2:1-3)**

#### **A. THE PSALMIST'S INQUIRY (1)**

1. Why do the nations rage?
2. Why do the people plot a vain thing?

#### **B. THE PSALMIST'S OBSERVATION (2-3)**

1. Against the Lord and His Anointed...
  - a. The kings of the earth set themselves
  - b. The rulers take counsel together
2. Against the Lord and His Anointed they say...
  - a. "Let us break their bonds in pieces"
  - b. "(Let us) cast away their cords from us"

### **II. THE LORD'S REJOINER (2:4-6)**

#### **A. THE LORD'S REACTION (4)**

1. He who sits in the heaven shall laugh
2. The Lord shall hold them in deep derision

#### **B. THE LORD'S REPLY (5-6)**

1. He shall speak to them in His wrath
2. He will distress them in His deep displeasure
3. He will proclaim: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion"

### **III. THE MESSIAH'S RESPONSE (2:7-9)**

#### **A. THE DECREE GIVEN HIM (7)**

1. "You are My Son"
2. "Today I have begotten You"

#### **B. THE AUTHORITY GIVEN HIM (8-9)**

1. The extent of His rule
  - a. "The nations for Your inheritance"
  - b. "The ends of the earth for Your possession"
2. The power of His rule
  - a. "You shall break them with a rod of iron"
  - b. "You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel"

### **IV. THE PSALMIST'S REPROACH (2:10-12)**

#### **A. TO KINGS AND JUDGES (10-11)**

1. Be wise, be instructed
2. Serve the LORD with fear

3. Rejoice with trembling

**B. TO THEM AND ALL (12)**

1. Kiss the Son lest He be angry
  - a. And you perish [in] the way
  - b. When His wrath is kindled but a little.
2. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE PSALM**

**1) What are the main points of this psalm?**

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**2) Against whom are the kings and rulers taking counsel? (2)**

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**3) What are the kings and rulers saying? (3)**

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**4) What reaction does this prompt from the Lord in heaven? (4-5)**

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**5) What will the Lord say to these kings and rulers? (6)**

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**6) How will the Anointed One (i.e., the Messiah) respond? (7)**

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**7) Who is the Anointed One? (7)**

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**8) As applied by Paul, what "day" was the Messiah "begotten" by God? (7; cf. Ac 13:33)**

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**9) What did the Lord promise His Anointed One? (8)**

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**10) According to Jesus and His apostles, has He been given this authority? If so, when? (cf. Mt 28:18; Ep 1:20-22; 1 Pe 3:22; Re 1:5; 2:26-27)**

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**11) What will He do to the nations with this authority? (9; cf. Re 2:26-27)**

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**12) What wisdom and instruction does the psalmist give to kings and judges? (10-12)**

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**13) What of those who put their trust in the Son? (12)**

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