

**SBC – May 22, 2022**

**Psalm 2 (NKJV)**

**“The Messiah’s Coming Reign”**

**Prayer:**

Tonight, I am beginning a journey with you through the Messianic Psalms. A Messianic Psalm is a Psalm that clearly has the coming Messiah in view as a dominant prophetic theme. There are about 25 Messianic Psalms. The first Messianic Psalm is Psalm 2 which we will study tonight.

The Psalms began about the time of Moses in about 1500 BC. Moses wrote Psalm 90. The series was completed after the time of the Babylonian Captivity. This means that the book of Psalms developed over about a 1000-year period of time involving a variety of writers but God alone is the ultimate author behind all these human authors.

The Psalms were the Song Book of God’s people. The Hebrews called it “*The Book of Praises*”. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (called the Septuagint) gave it the title “*Psalmoi*” meaning “*songs*” and indicating accompaniment by stringed instruments.

As the expositor opens the book of Psalms, he is like a mountain climber poised at the base of a snow-capped summit, ready to scale its towering heights. With each individual psalm, there is a steep ascent upward into the heights of heaven, up to the throne of God. The Psalter rises high above the landscape of Scripture, transcendent in its beauty and magnificent in its grandeur. As the longest book in the Bible, it is, quite frankly, the Mount Everest of Scripture. – **Steven J. Lawson**

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible containing 150 Psalms. It is broken into 5 sections with each section corresponding to one of the books of Moses and concluding with a doxology.

**Slide # 1**

- A. **Psalms 1-41** – Genesis – Man & Creation – Doxology, Ps. 41:13
- B. **Psalms 42-72** – Exodus – Israel & Redemption – Doxology, Ps. 72:18-19
- C. **Psalms 73-89** – Leviticus – Worship & the Temple – Doxology, Ps. 89:52
- D. **Psalms 90-106** – Numbers – Sojourn on Earth – Doxology, Ps. 106:48
- E. **Psalms 107-150** – Deut. – Praise and the Word of God – Doxology, Ps. 150:6

Psalms has the longest chapter in the Bible – Psalm 119 containing 176 verses with its theme being the Word of God. It also contains the shortest chapter in the Bible which is Psalm 117.

About 1/3 of the NT quotations from the OT are taken from the book of Psalms – that is 112 of 360.

No other book of the Bible is so interwoven into the fabric of the whole of Scripture. Psalms contains more Messianic prophecies of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ than any other Old Testament book, other than possibly Isaiah. – **Steven Lawson**

The Messianic content is so strong in the Psalms that following His resurrection Jesus singled out this portion for special mention as prophetically speaking of Him.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **Luke 24:44 (NKJV)**

**44** Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and **the Psalms** concerning Me.”

The Psalms present history, doctrine, and theology, having a key emphasis on prophecy and typology related to the person of Christ. The Psalms speak to His birth, humiliation, Deity, ministry, rejection, betrayal, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and reign. The person of Christ is so prominent that Psalms has been called “***The Him Book***” of God’s people.

There are all kinds of Psalms that have application to the whole of life.

- a. ***Royal Psalms***: Anticipate Christ coming as King (cf. Ps. 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 101, 110, 144).
- b. ***Alphabetic Psalms***: Use of Hebrew alphabet in an acrostic fashion or in some special arrangement (cf. Ps. 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145).
- c. ***Penitential Psalms***: These Psalms express brokenness over sin (cf. Ps. 6, 25, 32, 38, 39, 40, 51, 102, 130).
- d. ***Messianic Psalms***: Prophetically speak of coming Messiah (cf. Ps. 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 69, 72, 89, 110, 118, 132).

- e. **Imprecatory Psalms:** Call for God to curse the enemies of His people (cf. Ps. 52, 58, 59, 109, 140).
- f. **Hallelujah Psalms:** Psalms employing the climactic praise word “Hallelujah” (cf. Ps. 111-113, 115-117, 146-150).
- g. **Ascent Psalms:** They were recited or sung as the Jews made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the annual feasts (cf. Ps. 120-134).
- h. **Wisdom Psalms:** Provide practical guidelines for godly living (Ps. 1, 37, 119).
- i. **Lament Psalms:** Very emotional Psalms that cry out to God for deliverance.
- j. **Thanksgiving Psalms:** Express deep gratitude to God.
- k. **Pilgrimage or Assent Psalms:** Celebrate God’s goodness in preparation for worship – often sung in route to Jerusalem.
- l. **Enthronement Psalms:** Awe-inspiring Psalms that consider the grandeur of God’s sovereign rule.

David wrote about half of the Psalms (73 of them) including Psalm 2. There is no superscription in Psalm 2 ascribing it to David. However, the NT writers do attribute it to David as seen for example in Acts 4:25-26.

Psalm 2 can neatly be outlined in this way...

### **Slide # 3**

#### ***Outline of Psalm 2***

Psalm 2:1-3 – The Audacity of Human Rebellion

Psalm 2:4-6 – The Divine Response

Psalm 2:7-9 – God’s Son Established as Ruler Over All

Psalm 2:10-12 – An Appeal to Submit to the Son

The setting is the history of human rebellion that climaxes in the Tribulation Period. Humanity wants to rule itself without interference from God, but in the end God set His Son as King over all the earth. This is about who will rule over humanity.

The divine response is it will be the One God calls “My King” and “My Son”.

## **Psalm 2:1–12 (NKJV)**

### **1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?**

This is a rhetorical question of astonishment. It is absurdly crazy that the nations would rage and plot an overthrow of God's sovereign rule. It is totally futile and destined for total failure.

“Their boasts and threats are the squeaks of a mouse against a lion!”  
(William MacDonald) – And the Lion of Judah to be more precise.

### **2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,**

This is a conspiracy of world leaders to defy the LORD – that is YHWH – the covenant God of Israel and His Anointed – which is to say the Messiah Who is the Lord Jesus Christ. These world leaders are plotting and planning on how they can break free from the Lordship rule of God and His Messiah.

God the Father and the Messiah are here linked together. As Jesus said, God the Father has ordained that “all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father” (Jn. 5:23).

At this point they do realize they are dealing with God and His Messiah. They are not denying their existence, but are so naive as to think they can come together and overcome God's power. That is crazy talk! But note they “set themselves”. They are steeled in their unified rebellion. They have the audacity to take on God and the Messiah!

### **3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”**

The setting here ultimately relates to the coming Day of the Lord when God's worldwide judgment will become very evident. The whole world will realize the God of the Bible is upset and dealing with them. God's two special witnesses in Rev. 11 will make it known very clearly WHO they are dealing with and that they are in the clutches of God's judgment.

## **Slide # 4**

### **Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)**

**15** And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

**16** and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of **Him who sits on the throne** and from the **wrath of the Lamb!**

**17** For **the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?**”

What is amazing is that these rebel leaders, although they know what is going on, refuse to repent – they refuse to submit to the God of heaven and His Christ.

This is a LORDSHIP issue. It is the Day of the Lord, and it is all about them refusing to humble themselves under His LORDSHIP. This is the great issue in life. Depravity hates the bonds God has put in place. They want to be free from all God-ordained regulations and restrictions. They want no God-ordained restraint, no Bible-standards, no accountability. They demand to be the MASTER of their own fate!

They hate the NARROW way God has provided in Christ. They detest God’s moral boundaries. They despise God’s chosen people. They hate God’s absolute truth and conspire to break free from it. We see this in our world today as they pass laws approving the absurd claiming that biological men can now be women and vice versa. This is an example of counseling together to try and defy God’s bond and cords that He has ordained in nature. As God said to Saul, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads” (Acts 26:14).

The harder they kick the more painful it becomes for them. But they are kicking and conspiring and determined to break free from God’s rule. In the Day of the Lord God makes the issue of His LORDSHIP very clear but the world’s leaders take counsel together to resist. It comes to a climax as heaven is opened and Christ is presented as coming on a white horse accompanied with the armies of heaven, but the kings of the earth array to fight against Him.

### **Slide # 5**

#### **Revelation 19:19 (NKJV)**

**19** And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, **gathered together to make war against Him** who sat on the horse and against His army.

**4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.**

**5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:**

**6 “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”**

David here speaks in anthropomorphic terms (meaning he attributes to God human characteristics). Note God is not concerned. He sits enthroned in the heavens and He laughs in the sense of contempt or scorn. Derision is the idea of laughing in mockery.

Right now God is speaking to the world in GRACE! This is the age of GRACE. The message of GRACE is going out inviting people to come before judgment day comes.

But suddenly the Day of the LORD judgment will fall upon them and God will speak to them in His wrath. This will truly be “sinners in the hands of an angry God”. And God in the deep displeasure of His anger will distress or terrify them.

The rulers of the earth seek to defy God’s LORDSHIP as they set themselves against Him, but God has set His King on His holy hill of Zion.

This is stated in what is called a “prophetic perfect” meaning it is so sure to happen that it is spoken as already fulfilled even though it is yet future.

God’s King is the promised Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ. His “holy hill” is the temple mount (2 Chron. 33:15; Ps. 15:1; 43:3; 99:9; Isa. 52:1; 56:7).

The word Zion literally means "fortification". Zion is essentially synonymous with Jerusalem and is called "the city of David" as well as "the city of God". Zion in effect is OLD Jerusalem in the historical sense of the word. It refers to the south-eastern hill of Jerusalem. This is where David built his royal palace and later where Solomon built the temple (cf. 1 Kings 8:1; 2 Kings 1:19; 1 Kings 19:21; 1 Kings 19:31; 1 Chronicles 11:5; Ps. 2:6; 48:2, 11-12; 132:13).

Zion signifies the epicenter of God's rule and presence on earth. So, Zion at core refers to the temple mount, but is also used in reference to the entire city of Jerusalem (cf. Isa. 40:9); to the land of Judah (cf. Jer. 31:12); or even to the entire nation of Israel as a whole (cf. Zech. 9:13). Context determines the exact nuance in view; but most generally Zion refers to Jerusalem, and specifically to the Temple Mount as is the case here in this context in Psalm 2.

The rulers clamor for world domination but it is already settled – God has already chosen His King Who will be established in Jerusalem on the temple mount.

**7 “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.**

**8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**

**9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”**

The King Who is the Son now speaks recounting what God the Father has promised Him. The rulers want to break away from God’s restraint but this is what God has decreed and it can’t be broken.

YHWH said to the Messiah King, **“*You are My Son, today I have begotten You.*”** Note this is a declaration by the Messiah of what God has already decreed. It’s as if the Messiah (God’s King) steps forward to affirm that indeed He is the true Messiah that has the God-ordained right to rule the nations.

The phrase **“*You are My Son, today I have begotten You*”** has been the cause of lots of discussion. As the Son of God Jesus is eternally the Son – meaning He is of the very nature of God – eternally God – God of very God. Jesus did not become the Son of God – He has always been the Son. God the Father sent the Son as the Son – He did not become the Son (cf. Jn. 3:17; Gal. 4:4). Col. 1:13-16 and Heb. 1:2 tell us that by the Son all things were created. He was always and already the Son for all eternity (cf. Jn. 1:18).

So what does this phrase, **“*You are My Son, today I have begotten You*”** mean in this context? In context is what God promised to David in the Davidic covenant found in 2 Sam. 7 that he would have a Son who would have an eternal throne. This is a declaration that the King in view is this Son. It is a declaration that He is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

He is the Son of David Who will forever sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount as seen in verse 6. Thus, the Son of David is uniquely “God’s Son”. When did God’s Son as the Son of David experience this pronouncement? Acts 13:33 makes it clear that this took place in the resurrection.

**Slide # 6****Acts 13:33 (NKJV)**

**33** God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that **He has raised up Jesus**. As it is also written in the second Psalm: **'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'**

There is a sense (properly understood) in which God begot Christ on resurrection day. It is important to note that the word “begotten” as used in Psalm 2:7 does not always have the sense of conception. It commonly means to “bring forth” in the sense of “giving birth” (1 Kg. 3:17-18; 2 Kg. 19:3).

Understand that the Jews understood the realm of death (Hades) to be a type of womb that would one day give up (or bring forth) those who are kept there.

Peter on the Day of Pentecost associated the idea of birth with Christ's resurrection.

**Slide # 7****Acts 2:24 (NKJV)**

**24** Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains [*literally, birth pangs*] of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

**Slide # 8**

Just as a baby is hidden from sight in his mother's womb until he is brought forth on the day of his birth, so Christ after His death was hidden from sight in the womb of the earth until God brought Him forth on the day of His resurrection. Thus on Christ's resurrection day God begot Him in the sense of bringing Him forth alive from the grave. – **George W. Zeller & Renald E. Showers in *The Eternal Sonship of Christ*, p. 60**

The resurrection of Christ was God's way of affirming that Jesus is His Son Who is the Son of David Who fulfills the decree found in Psalm 2:7 (cf. Ex. 4:22-23; 2 Sam. 7:14; Ps. 89:26-27; Rom. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:5; 5:5).

And the resurrection is the affirmation that the Son Who is the King will receive from the Father the nations for His inheritance and the ends of the earth for His possession. Want proof of the decree – then look at the resurrection!



Just as sure as the resurrection was fulfilled this will yet also be fulfilled. Verse 9 affirms that indeed the Messiah Jesus will break the nations with a rod of iron and shatter all resistance as though breaking a piece of pottery into pieces.

Verse 9 describes Christ's coming to earth and putting down all rebellion as He begins His millennial rule. Three times in the book of Revelation it is declared that Christ in conjunction with His second coming will rule over the nations with a rod of iron (cf. Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). In fact, in Rev. 2:26-27 Christ promises that overcomers will share with Him in this rule.

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Revelation 2:26–27 (NKJV)**

**26** And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

**27** 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father;

That is total ruling authority! This is destined for the Son Who is the KING! No wonder verse 1 begins with the tone of astonishment!

**10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.**

**11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.**

**12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

It is still the age of GRACE – the appeal of invitation is still going forth. And here the target is the political leaders and judges of the world. These are the major movers and shakers that influence the whole of society.

They should take warning that resistance is futile! God has determined that His Son is going to rule. The supreme court should realize that they are not supreme JUDGE! God is King. God rules! God is the final judge.

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)**

**30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands all men everywhere to repent,**  
**31** because He has appointed a day on which **He will judge the world** in righteousness **by the Man whom He has ordained**. He has given **assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.**”

The kings and judges of the earth are exhorted to be wise and in repentance turn and serve the LORD with reverential fear and in that position rejoice with trembling. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (cf. Prov. 1:7; 9:10).

This is descriptive of true saving faith repentance. It denotes a change of heart that turns from self-oriented rebellion as seen in verses 1-3 to submission to Christ as Lord and Savior as seen in verses 10-12.

True believers know what it means to have both fear and joy in their hearts. Love for the Lord casts out sinful fear (1 John 4:18) but perfects godly fear. We love our Father but still respect His authority.

**– Warren Wiersbe**

To kiss the Son is the idea of paying homage to Him (cf. 1 Sam. 10:1; 1 Kg. 19:18; Job 31:27; Hos. 13:2). Kiss is a euphemism for worship. It is to submit to and reverence His LORDSHIP authority! That’s what this is all about. Those that refuse to repent and embrace the Son as Lord are in danger of experiencing His anger in which they perish in the way when His wrath is kindled but a little which emphasizes that it could break forth SUDDENLY at any time without warning.

In contrast “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” The idea of trusting in Him is to submit to Him for WHO He is as the King – as the Son of God Who has sovereign right to rule – and thus to find refuge in Him.

Saving faith is an act of worship as seen in John 4:23-24 and Phil. 3:3. That is reflected here in Ps. 2:11-12.

### **Slide # 11**

“Serve,” “rejoice,” “fear,” and “trembling” describe the religious responses of the righteous in worship. They are to lead lives of submission, not rebellion; lives characterized by fear and trembling, not arrogance; lives filled with [God-oriented] exultation, not the gloom of oppression. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Only in worshipfully embracing the Son in saving faith is their safety from the wrath of God! A clear choice is set before the leaders of the world. There are those who will perish in contrast to those who are blessed – all depending on what one does with Jesus, God's Son, Who is the Messiah. This is the ultimate issue. It is the ultimate issue for every person in the world!

The outcome of Who will ultimately rule the world is not in question. God has decreed it will be His Son as proven in the resurrection. The only question is where in the end will we personally stand with Jesus?

The response of defiant rebellion in Ps. 2:1-3 is totally irrational? Why would any sane person ever do this? In contrast WISDOM that submits to the Son as seen in verses 10-12 is totally rational.

Blessed is the idea that all is well in experiencing the goodness of God. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

The Messianic Psalm of Psalm 2 depicts the sovereignty of God over all the rulers and judges of the world.

**Proverbs 21:30 (NKJV)**

**30** There is no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the LORD.

This truth is a great encouragement in these last days of apostasy and rebellion against all that the Bible stands for.

In the end the decree of God will stand for all eternity! God's King will reign forever from David's throne just as God has promised!

Indeed, BLESSED are all those who put their trust in Him!