

• *A celebration of the victory of God's king*

• *God has plans for our world*

**The situation – hostility against God's son**

• *Selfish motives*

• *Ignoring or opposing God*

• *Restless and rebellious rulers*

• *Wickedness*

• *Not seeking righteousness and justice*

**God's reaction**

• *God laughs*

• *God will override their plans with His own*

**The reaction of God's King**

Psalm 2 is a 'song of Messianic triumph', celebrating the victory of God's king over pagan kings. It describes a situation <sup>1</sup>, then tells of three reactions, the reaction of God <sup>2</sup>, of God's king <sup>3</sup> and of the psalm-writer himself <sup>4</sup>.

**God has plans for our world.** There are people who believe that there is some kind of God but He is very distant. They talk as if God created the world and then left it to tick over on its own. But God is very close to our world. He notices what is going on. He specially is watching presidents and kings and dictators. His plans for our world are connected with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The nations rage against God's son <sup>1</sup>.** *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?* <sup>2</sup>. The entire human race is hostile to the God of the Bible. Even when God is wanting to bless them they resist his way of salvation. We remember how the Christians of Jerusalem quoted this psalm - Acts 4:23-28. Pontius Pilate was a typical politician, wanting power, wanting money – but not insisting on ruling righteously when Jesus is brought before him. Unsaved national leaders are among the worst in resisting God. They like planning the future for their nations but they generally leave God out of account, or even oppose him. *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed...* <sup>3</sup>. They are restless and rebellious, for they reject God's anointed king <sup>4</sup>. In the times of David they did not like David's power, but David is a shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ. The nations, in their folly, think submission is bondage and rebellion is freedom <sup>5</sup>, and they want only to throw off any kind of restraint to their wickedness. They say 'Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us'. God and his king love righteousness and often restrain wickedness, but the powerful people of this world want to break free from any kind of resistance to their wickedness.

There are very few kings and princes and presidents who really wish their land to be ruled in the interests of righteousness and justice. Generally speaking people with worldly power want to become famous or want to be rich or want their country to conquer the surrounding countries and be great in military might.

**Let us notice what God has to say about them (2:4-6).**

(i) He laughs at them in scorn! God thinks it ridiculous that little kinglets should think they have power to conquer him! 'Oh, ha, ha, ha!' He roars with laughter at the thought that these little pigmy people should be so foolish!

(ii) He speaks of his determination to override their plans and make his Son to be the King of the universe. This kingship is going to have Jerusalem as its centre (I am not talking about politics!). God has already set his Son as king in Jerusalem. Jesus died in Jerusalem! Jesus rose again in Jerusalem! God poured out the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. God sent out his apostles on a programme of spiritual influence from Jerusalem <sup>1</sup>.

**See what the King himself says <sup>1</sup>.** The King in the line of David is called God's 'Son'. The Davidic kings were only a shadow of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son, by miraculous birth, and by divine nature. But the 'today' of Psalm 2 was fulfilled at the resurrection.

<sup>1</sup> 2:1-3  
<sup>2</sup> 2:4-6  
<sup>3</sup> 2:7-9  
<sup>4</sup> 2:10-12

<sup>1</sup> 2:1-3  
<sup>2</sup> 2:1

<sup>3</sup> 2:2  
<sup>4</sup> 2:2

<sup>5</sup> 2:3

<sup>1</sup> Acts 1:8

<sup>1</sup> 2:7-9

• *God's Son – Jesus the God-man inherits the nations*

Jesus is God's Son in power by resurrection from the dead. Resurrection-Sunday was the beginning of the time when Jesus-the-God-man was put into position as the King of the universe <sup>☩</sup>2. The spiritual conquest of the world works by prayer, for the Son of God prays! The Son-of-God-who-is-God's-King has to ask to be given the nations. Also: this conquest of the world works by reward. The Son of God prays for his reward! The nations are his inheritance and 'inheritance' is always some kind of reward. As the obedient royal Son, he will bring nations to the Father <sup>☩</sup>3. Notice the word 'therefore' in Philipians 2:9.

<sup>☩</sup>2 Acts 13:32-37

<sup>☩</sup>3 2:8

• *The day of his obviously and visibly putting down all remaining opposition is coming*

The rebellious nations will be ruled with absolute power. Any resistance will finally be met with destruction <sup>☩</sup>1. The vision here has started to be fulfilled. Jesus has come. Jesus has risen from the dead. Jesus is King. He is conquering nations. The day of his obviously and visibly putting down all remaining opposition is coming, but has not come yet. No one knows exactly how it will work, but at some stage before the Second Coming of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ will rule in the nations. It is not something military or political. It will come by the Holy Spirit's work in winning the nations. Then at the Second Coming of Christ his rule will become even greater and all sin will be removed from the universe.

<sup>☩</sup>1 2:9

**The Psalmist's invitation**

**Next comes an invitation <sup>☩</sup>1.** Verses 10-12 bring us to what the psalmist has to say. He invites us to be wise (*Now therefore, O kings, be wise...*), to be warned (*be warned, you rulers...*), to be humble and submissive. He invites us to survival. For the psalmist threatens God's enemies with extermination (*Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way...*). He invites us to readiness (for he might act swiftly), to faith, to blessedness. The implication is that Jesus will indeed rule the nations one day. The present rulers of the world had best be ready for the day when Jesus acts and sin is put down. If they submit to Jesus now, they will be ready for anything that happens in their land.

<sup>☩</sup>1 2:10-12

- *To be wise, warned, humble and submissive*
- *To survival*
- *To readiness*

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|   | <p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)</i> books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p> |    |
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