

Psalm 2

The Lord's Plan for the Human Race: The Rule of God's Son, the Savior of the World, Psalm 2:1-12

Psalm 2:1-12 NKJV

The Messiah's Triumph and Kingdom

- ¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, *saying*,
³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."
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."
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.' "
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.

1. The people's rebellion against God (vv. 1-3).
2. The Lord's plan for the universe (vv. 4-6).
3. The Son's proclamation of the Lord's plan (decree): God's glorious promise to His Son (vv. 7-9).
4. The Lord's warning to the rulers and citizens of the world (vv. 10-12).

1. (Psalm 2:1-3) The people's rebellion against God.

Psalm 2:1-3 NKJV

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Introduction: The Foolishness of Rebellion Against God

Psalm 2 opens with one of the most searching questions in all of Scripture:

"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?" (Psalm 2:1 NKJV)

The psalmist stands in astonishment at the audacity of humanity. He watches entire civilizations mobilize their power, intellect, and resources in open defiance of God—and he is bewildered that

anyone could believe such rebellion could succeed. The word *vain* means empty, futile, meaningless. Their plotting is not merely sinful; it is senseless. History is filled with empires that believed themselves invincible. Pharaoh defied the God of Israel. Nebuchadnezzar exalted himself above heaven. Rome claimed divine authority. Every one of them has fallen into the dust of history. The nations rage. The people plot. But God remains enthroned.

[Psalm 2](#) reveals a timeless pattern: human power organizing itself against divine authority.

Modern-Day Illustration: The Futility of Fighting the Unstoppable

Imagine a group of engineers standing at the base of a massive hydroelectric dam—one that holds back billions of gallons of water. They begin arguing that they will stop the force of the river using hand tools and sandbags. They gather in committees, write proposals, and devise strategies. They hold press conferences announcing their resolve to overcome the dam.

But the dam does not tremble. The river does not slow. And their efforts, however organized, are utterly futile. No matter how passionate they are... No matter how united they stand... No matter how confident they feel... They are resisting a power far greater than themselves.

This is the picture of [Psalm 2](#). The rulers of the earth gather in boardrooms and parliaments. The intellectual elites craft ideologies. The media amplifies their voices. And all of it is aimed in one direction: *“Against the LORD and against His Anointed.”* ([Psalm 2:2](#)) They do not merely reject God’s laws. They resist God’s authority. They oppose God’s Christ. Yet the psalm declares their rebellion to be nothing more than noise before the throne of heaven.

Theological Emphasis

[Psalm 2:2](#) introduces the central conflict of history:

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed.”

The word *Anointed* (Hebrew: *Mashiach*) points directly to the Messiah—fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. From Herod and Pilate to modern governments and global institutions, the world continues to organize itself against Christ’s rule. This is not merely political rebellion. It is spiritual warfare. It is cosmic defiance. Yet Scripture is clear: No throne can outlast His throne. No kingdom can overturn His kingdom. No ruler can dethrone His Son. The nations rage. The people plot. But heaven is not alarmed. God has already set His King upon Zion. And His reign is unshakable.

Psalm 2:1 NKJV

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

The peoples’ efforts to rise up in rebellion against God are all in *vain*. They are wasting their time and energy, for they cannot succeed. The psalmist is amazed that people actually think they can defeat God!

c. The rulers oppose Him and His *Anointed One*: A picture of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 2).

Psalm 2:2 NKJV

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

Leaders of nations stir their people to rise up with them in rebellion against the Lord. *His Anointed* or *Anointed One* (**mashiach**) means one who is consecrated by the Lord to a specific office.

It is used in the Old Testament of priests (Leviticus 4:3; Leviticus 8:12), prophets (1 Kings 19:16), and kings (1 Samuel 24:6; 2 Samuel 12:7).

It is used in the Old Testament of priests (Leviticus 4:3; Leviticus 8:12),
Leviticus 4:3 NKJV

³If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.

Leviticus 8:12 NKJV

¹²And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.

prophets (1 Kings 19:16), and

1 Kings 19:16 NKJV

¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

kings (1 Samuel 24:6; 2 Samuel 12:7).

1 Samuel 24:6 NKJV

⁶And he said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord."

2 Samuel 12:7 NKJV

⁷Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.'

Transliterated as **messiah**, it finds its ultimate fulfillment in the promised Redeemer and Deliverer, Jesus Christ.