

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).

2. (Psalm 2:4-6) The Lord's plan for the universe.

Psalm 2:4-6 NKJV

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.”

Introduction

Psalm 2:4-6 — The Lord's Plan for the Universe

Psalm 2 moves from the raging of the nations to the calm sovereignty of God. After hearing the defiant cry of the kings of the earth—“Let us break Their bonds in pieces” (v. 3)—the psalmist turns our attention heavenward. There, we do not find panic, anxiety, or defensive maneuvering. Instead, we see God enthroned.

The second speaker in this psalm is God Himself. The omnipotent Creator, the Ruler of heaven and earth, personally answers human rebellion. His response is not hurried. He does not scramble to preserve His authority. He does not negotiate with rebels. He sits.

From His throne, He laughs at the futility of human arrogance, rebukes the nations in righteous wrath, and declares the unshakable reality of His plan:

“Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.” (Psalm 2:6, NKJV)

This passage reveals a theology of divine sovereignty that is both comforting and sobering. God is not reacting to world events—He is ruling over them. History is not drifting toward chaos; it is moving toward the coronation of Christ.

Modern-Day Illustrations

1. The Control Tower and the Storm

Imagine a massive international airport during a violent storm. Flights are delayed, passengers are anxious, pilots are rerouting, and terminals are crowded with uncertainty. From the terminal floor, everything feels chaotic.

But high above the runways sits the control tower.

Inside, air traffic controllers calmly direct every aircraft. They see what passengers cannot see.

They coordinate what pilots cannot coordinate alone. They are not alarmed by the storm; they are governing through it.

Psalm 2 shows us the control tower of the universe. While nations rage and ideologies clash, God sits enthroned. The storm does not control the skies—He does.

2. The CEO Who Never Leaves His Chair

When a hostile corporate takeover is attempted, panic often erupts inside the company. Lawyers rush in, emergency meetings are called, and executives scramble to protect their positions.

But imagine a CEO so powerful that when rivals attempt to overthrow the company, he does not even stand up from his chair. He does not call a crisis meeting. He does not mobilize a defense team. He simply smiles, knowing their effort is doomed from the start.

That is the picture of Psalm 2:4.

God does not rise because He is never threatened. He does not react because He is never surprised. He does not panic because He is never in danger.

He sits.

3. The Chess Grandmaster vs. the Amateur

A grandmaster playing chess against an amateur often appears relaxed. The amateur sweats, calculates, and second-guesses every move. The grandmaster leans back, sometimes even smiling.

Why?

Because the outcome is already clear.

The amateur may believe he is mounting a serious attack, but the grandmaster sees ten moves ahead. What feels like a threat is actually a setup for checkmate.

So it is with the nations of the world. Kings conspire. Governments posture. Powers rage. But God sees the end from the beginning. Their rebellion is not a threat—it is part of the board on which He is already ruling.

4. A Child Shaking His Fist at the Ocean

A small child stands on the beach, shouting at the waves, demanding that the ocean retreat. He stomps his feet and shakes his fist at the tide.

The ocean does not answer him.

The tide does not reverse.

The waves do not retreat.

The child is sincere—but powerless.

So it is when nations rage against God. Their defiance may be loud, but it is weightless. Their threats may be passionate, but they are futile.

“How can those who are temporal fight the Eternal?

How can the creation fight the Creator?”

5. The Judge Entering the Courtroom

In a courtroom, lawyers may argue fiercely. Defendants may posture. Protesters may shout outside. But when the judge enters the room, the tone changes instantly.

“All rise.”

Every voice falls silent. Every argument stops. Authority has entered the room.

Psalm 2:5 shows that moment in cosmic terms. God’s laughter turns to speech. His patience gives way to proclamation. And when He speaks, nations tremble.

His wrath is not uncontrolled anger. It is holy justice. It is not emotional volatility. It is moral certainty.

The Unshakable Conclusion

The climax of God’s response is not merely rebuke—it is coronation.

“Yet I have set My King

On My holy hill of Zion.” (v. 6)

The world may reject Christ. Governments may resist His authority. Cultures may mock His name. But heaven has already installed Him.

Christ is not campaigning for a throne.

He is not running for office.

He is not waiting for approval.

He reigns.

History is not moving toward uncertainty.

It is moving toward Christ’s visible kingdom.

The laughter of God assures His people:

The throne is occupied.

The crown is secure.

The King is already reigning.

The second speaker in this psalm is God Himself. Astonishingly, the omnipotent Creator Himself, the Ruler of heaven and earth, personally responds to David’s searching question ([v. 6](#)).

a. God's response to the rebellious ([vv. 4-5](#)).

The Lord's answer to those who brashly revolt against Him is simple and direct. His first reply is non-verbal: He is seen simply **sitting** on His throne ([v. 4^a](#)). **Sitting** is a sign of authority and refers to occupying a ruling position. A powerful image is projected in this scene: the one enthroned in heaven is completely secure in His power and position as Lord of the universe. He is neither threatened by nor concerned about the rebellion of any individual or any coalition of nations that unites against Him. He is not snapping into action nor mounting a defense. In fact, He does not even rise to deal with them. Completely undisturbed, the Lord continues to rule without interruption. God is on His throne. His **authority** is unchallenged.

Second, He **laughs** ([v. 4^b](#)). God's laughter is another expression that declares He is not shaken by His foes. The combined armies of the heathen are no match for Him, and He is not nervous about their plans and attacks. His laughter is for the benefit of His people, all who are truly trusting in Him. It gives comforting **assurance** to His people: He is unthreatened and in control. "God's laughter, as we face the terror of our history, keeps things in perspective. It reminds us of the answer to the question 'Who is in charge?' Ultimately, neither ecological disaster nor nuclear nightmare are in charge; God is!"

Third, note God's **amusement** at their folly ([v. 4^c](#)). His laugh is a mocking laugh. He holds those who deliberately oppose him—rebellious enemies—in **derision**; that is, He **scoffs** at them. "The presumption of the nations and their leaders causes God to laugh. How can those who are temporal fight the Eternal? How can the creation fight the Creator?" Indeed, their arrogance is sadly humorous. Another contrast with [Psalm 1](#) is seen here: in the previous psalm the ungodly scorn God and His law ([1:1](#)), and in [Psalm 2](#), God scorns them. What is amazing to us—that humans would be bold enough to think they can prevail against God—is amusing to the Lord.

The Lord's amusement turns to **anger** ([v. 5](#)). This is His fourth response to the nations' arrogance. He fiercely addresses them and strikes terror in their brassy hearts with His furious tone. **Vex** or **terrify** literally means "**tremble inwardly or palpitate**." Although His declaration does not immediately come to pass, it hangs like an ominous, looming storm cloud over the haughty heads of the wicked.

Some people question whether God's anger toward sinners is a righteous response. God is not angry because of uncontrolled emotions, but because of His character. His wrath is kindled against the ungodly because of His holy nature. He is not mean and vicious but just and righteous. His perfect, unbiased justice demands that all be held accountable for their rebellion against Him.