

## **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**

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?  
<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, *saying*,  
<sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."  
<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:  
<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."  
<sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.  
<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.  
<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "  
<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling.  
<sup>12</sup> 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**

- <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:  
<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

##### **a. The nations rage against Him (y. 1<sup>a</sup>).**

##### **Psalm 2:1 NKJV**

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

*Heathen* or *nations* (*goy*) describes people united by geographic boundaries, a common language, a political government or system, and/or common ethnicity. Throughout the Old Testament it usually refers to the Gentile nations—those who do not recognize and worship the Lord. They *rage* against the Lord the same way angry waves violently pound against the shoreline in a fierce storm.

**b. The people plot against Him (v. 1<sup>b</sup>).**

**Psalms 2:1 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> **Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?**

*People* or *peoples* (*leowm*) emphasizes the individuals or tribes of individuals who form a nation. The use of the plural form in this verse stresses how people of various nations will cross geographic, political, and ethnic lines to unite together against the Lord. Even enemies will set aside their differences and national interests to form an alliance against God.

*Imagine* or *plot* (*hagah*) is the same word as *meditate* in **Psalms 1:2**.

**Psalms 1:2 NKJV**

<sup>2</sup> **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

It portrays the people putting their heads together to form a strategy against the Lord. Note the contrast with the blessed individual of **Psalms 1**. He or she meditates on God's (Word) law and delights in it. The rebellious person despises it and meditates on how to escape it.

**Psalms 2:1 NKJV**

<sup>1</sup> **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).**

**Psalms 2:2 NKJV**

<sup>2</sup> **The 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**

<sup>3</sup> **If 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**

<sup>12</sup> **And 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**

<sup>16</sup> Also 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**

<sup>6</sup> And 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**

<sup>7</sup> Then 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. In **Daniel 9:25**, Jesus is specifically called the *Messiah*. *Christ* is the New Testament translation of this word.

To whom does it refer in this psalm?

**Daniel 9:25 NKJV**

<sup>25</sup> “Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

⇒ Some scholars and commentators believe that **Psalm 2** was a royal psalm used in the coronation of Hebrew kings. In their opinion the psalm “**refers to any anointed king who was seated on the throne of David.**” Most also recognize the prophetic connection to Christ.

⇒ Many others believe that Christ is exclusively in view here, making it truly a *Messianic Psalm*.

This view finds its major support in the context and proceeding verses of **Psalm 2**, and in the clear statements of the New Testament (**Acts 2:29-36**; **Hebrews 1:5**; **Hebrews 5:5**).

**Acts 2:29-36 NKJV**

<sup>29</sup> “Men and brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

<sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

<sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,

<sup>35</sup> Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

**Hebrews 1:5 NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

**Hebrews 5:5 NKJV**

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”

Peter and John recognized this psalm’s fulfillment in the conspiring together of Jewish and Roman officials to crucify Christ (**Acts 4:25-28; Matthew 26:47-27:26**).

**Acts 4:25-28 NKJV**

<sup>25</sup> Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’

<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

<sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

A future fulfillment will also take place when Christ returns to earth (**Revelation 13:12-14; Revelation 19:15-21**).

**Revelation 13:12-14 NKJV**

<sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

<sup>13</sup> He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

<sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

**Revelation 19:15-21 NKJV**

<sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

**The Beast and His Armies Defeated**

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

**<sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”**

**<sup>19</sup> 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.**

**<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

**<sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**