

2. Psalm 2-4

August 9, 2007

Psalm 2

One of the attributes of the Book of Psalm is the prophetic nature regarding the prophecies of Jesus Christ.

We not only get to link these prophetic Psalms with the actual events of Jesus' life, but also we are allowed to have glimpses of the behind-the-scenes of Jesus' triumphs and agonies. The chapter 2 is a case in point.

Chapter 2 can be neatly divided in four sections three verses for each:

A. THE NATIONS AGAINST THE ANOINTED

Psalm 2:1-3 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."

It is the Gentiles – heathen, and they are rebelling against God and His rule. This has been down through the centuries, but it is being heard in a greater way in these last days. As never before, there is a united voice of rebellion against the rule of God and Christ.

What do these countries want? Freedom from God's rule. The nations do not want to submit to God's rule any longer. They want to be away from God's presence. Their wish will be granted and they will end up in hell by their own choice. There they won't have the presence of God. That is more hell than anything else.

I asked you to underline the word 'Anointed' in v2. Of course, we know that it is the 'Messiah' in Hebrew and 'Christ' in Greek.

B. THE LORD LAUGHS FROM HEAVEN

Psalm 2:4-6 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."

What is God's response to the threats of men? He laughs. He isn't pacing back and forth in the throne room of heaven, wondering what He should do next. God sits in perfect peace and assurance.

This laughter of God is the comfort of all those who follow Him. It is the laughter of the might of holiness.

Today God is not speaking in wrath. Rather He is speaking through His Son in grace. But one day, however, He will send His wrath upon the nations of the world. This is the Great Tribulation, described in detail in Rev. 6-19. It will be a time of awful judgment upon the land, sea, the world of nature and people and nations. Millions of people will die in plagues and heaven-sent disasters. Multitudes will be saved during this time, but many of them will seal their decision with their own lives.

C. A DECLARATION OF THE SON OF GOD

Psalm 2:7-9 "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."

'Begotten' is an important idea, as a contrast to created. Jesus was not created. Rather He created everything that was created as it is mentioned in Colossians 1:16-17.

The reference in this psalm is not to the birth of Jesus. He never was begotten in the sense of having a beginning. Rather, this is in reference to His resurrection. Christ was begotten out of Joseph's tomb. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, and God is the eternal Father. They were like this throughout eternity. This is their position in the Trinity.

This is a verse that the Jehovah Witnesses use a great deal. It hasn't anything to do with someone being born, but it does have something to do with someone being begotten from the dead as a resurrection. If the Jehovah's Witnesses have not heard this, but they could find, with a little honest searching, that the New Testament makes it very clear Jesus Christ is not a creature. He is the theanthropic Person. He is the God-man.

D. THE INSTRUCTIONS TO PEOPLE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Psalm 2:10-12 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.

Our world boasts of its knowledge, and it seems that there is more knowledge than ever before, but there also seems to be less wisdom. God's wisdom is found in God's Word, yet the kings and rulers do not want the Word of God.

Instead of rebelling and resisting, people should bow down to Christ and serve Him. A reverential joy is what will result from yielding to Christ. "kissing the Son" is an expression of our submission to the Son of God.

It is a simple instruction that many people refuse to follow, but those who choose not to follow will pay the ultimate price for their decisions in hell.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) Those who want to be away from God's presence will get their wish granted and they will end up in hell by their own choice. There they won't have the presence of God. That is more hell than anything else.

2) The laughter of God against the people who oppose Him is the comfort of all those who follow Him. It is the laughter of the might of holiness.

3) Our world boasts of its knowledge, but there also seems to be less wisdom. God's wisdom is found in God's Word.

Psalm 3

In last study, I taught you guys to pay a close attention to the superscription that can be found underneath of the Psalm address, because it gives us a quick backdrop. The events are recorded in 2 Samuel 15-18, but the heart is recorded in this Psalm.

F. ONE BAD THING AFTER ANOTHER

Psalm 3:1-2 A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son. Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah

At the writing of this Psalm David was in a great deal of trouble. His own son Absalom led what seemed to be a successful rebellion against him. Many of his previous friends and associates including his close confidant and advisor Ahithophel forsook him and joined the ranks of those who troubled him.

To make the matter worse, David's situation was so bad that people felt he was beyond God's help or God was not willing to help him. Shimei, a Benjamite of the house of Saul, was an example of someone who said that God was against David and he was just getting what he deserved.

If all the trials which come from heaven, all the temptations which ascend from hell, and all the crosses which arise from the earth, could be mixed and pressed together, they would not make a trial so terrible as that which is contained in this verse. It is the most bitter of all afflictions to be led to fear that there is no help for us in God.

G. GOD IS OUR SHIELD TO PROTECT US

Psalm 3:3-6 But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. 4 I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah 5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around.

Many people including some close friends of ours would tell us to give up our fight against the world. But we must remember that God is our shield. As a matter of fact, He teaches us in Ephesians 6.

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

The reason why David could say that God is his Shield confidently can be found in v4-5. Having faith in God Almighty, more precisely, having faith in His faithfulness allows us to have a good night sleep.

This has been called "a morning psalm." This is a good psalm with which to start the day. In spite of all the problems and troubles that David had, he trusted in the Lord. He simply trusted in the Lord, pillowed his head on the promises of God, covered himself with the faithfulness of God and went to sleep.

H. SAVED BY GOD

Psalm 3:7-8 Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah

This vivid metaphor is also used in Psalm 58:6. It speaks of the total domination and defeat of the enemy.

David understood that salvation – both in the ultimate and immediate sense – was God's property. It isn't the property of any one nation or sect or person, but of the LORD God. To be saved, one must deal with the LORD Himself.

I. APPLICATIONS

- 1) The most hopeless situation is when a person realizes that there is no help from God because of one's rejection of God.
- 2) The person who puts his faith in God's faithfulness and hope in God's lovingkindness can have peace of God in the midst of the worst possible situation.

Psalm 4

In this psalm, David pours out his complaint against slanderous enemies and finds peace and refuge in God.

J. HEAR MY PRAYER

Psalm 4:1-3 Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. 2 How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Selah 3 Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him.

The psalm begins with an introductory cry for God to hear his prayer. God had given David relief in the midst of his distress. To this God he directed his prayer.

There is passion in David's cry. He doesn't want to just cast up words towards heaven. He needs God's attention to his present problem. Often power in prayer is lacking because there is little passion in prayer. It isn't that we persuade God by emotional displays, but God wants us to care deeply about the things He cares deeply about.

Each Christian should have the assurance and confidence that God will hear our prayers. When prayer seems ineffective it is worth it to take a spiritual inventory to see if there is a reason for unanswered prayer. The Bible tells us there are many reasons why prayer may not be answered:

- Not abiding in Jesus – John 15:7
- Unbelief – Matthew 17:20-21
- Failure to Fast – Matthew 17:21
- A Bad Marriage Relationship – 1 Peter 3:7
- Unconfessed Sin – James 5:16
- Lying and Deceitfulness – Psalm 17:1
- Lack of Bible Reading and Bible Teaching – Proverbs 28:9
- Trusting in the Length or Form of Prayer – Matthew 6:7

If we find ourselves on a compromising course, it is valid to ask ourselves, "How long? If I continue in this sin, how long will I get by before I end up in an inevitable disaster?"

In this psalm the problem is one of malicious slander and lies. It is the psalmist's reputation rather than his person that is being attacked.

K. IN YOUR ANGER DO NOT SIN

Psalm 4:4-5 In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah 5 Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

O how many people sin because they choose not to control their temper! Nothing wrong with getting angry at the people who assault us spiritually or emotionally, but taking the matter into our own hands would be another matter.

David is hoping that these people would become worshipers of God and they would become friends of David. What a way to pray for our enemies!

L. DWELLING IN HIS SAFETY

Psalm 4:6-8 Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord. 7 You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound. 8 I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Despite what the cynics say or think, David trusts that the Lord will show him good.

He claims it upon the Aaronic promise of blessing in Numbers 6:24-26:

Numbers 6:24-26 The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

David can sleep well at night, even in distressing times and surrounded by the ungodly. He sleeps well because his safety is from the Lord, not from circumstances or even feeling.

M. APPLICATION

The true peace does not come from anyone or anything other than God and His presence. When we dwell in His presence, that is the safest place in the universe in spite of all the difficult situations.