

THE ARGUMENT: In this Psalm we see conflict. The world raging against God, attempting to remove His authority from their lives. They want to be self-ruled and don't need anybody including God to tell them what they can do and what they can't. We also see God's response to this universal rebellion. He is not worried nor concerned. He doesn't even arise from His seat, with absolute sovereign control He laughs and then proclaims to those involved in this mutiny, "I have set appointed a King who will rule over every one. That King is the anointed one, my Son." We hear from the rebels, we hear from God the father, next we hear from the Son. He affirms the actions of the Father who has placed Him as king over every nation, and every individual unto the ends of the earth. All of this is terrifying to the rebel who is willing to see what God is really saying. Then in the last section of this Psalm we have the call of God through His Spirit. Since this is true, be wise and align yourself with your new King. You cannot win this conflict against Almighty God but you can change sides and join Him. This is the only way to be safe for all of eternity.

Ps 2 (ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ⁽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 burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁽⁴⁾ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁽⁵⁾ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁽⁶⁾ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁽⁷⁾ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you." ⁽⁸⁾ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁽⁹⁾ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ⁽¹⁰⁾ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers 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, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

1. Very interesting Psalm

- A. It begins with a worldwide rebellion against God
Then it moves to God's sobering response to this mutiny in His creation
And finishes with a gracious call for these rebels to end the war and embrace the Son of God

2. I'm going to outline it in 4 sections – each having 3 verses

- A. V 1-3 The *inclination* of natural man – they are rebels against God
- B. V. 4-6 The *indignation* of the Father against this mutiny in His creation
- C. V. 7-9 The *installation* of God's Son as the authority over all things
- D. V. 10-12 The *invitation* by God's Spirit to sinful man

I. THE INCLINATION OF NATURAL MAN

Ps 2:1–3 (ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ⁽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 burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

1. We find a strange universal agreement

- A. In a world that can't seem to agree on anything – here is one thing they can
 - 1). They don't want God and His Son (His anointed) ruling over them

Thought: This universal uprising against God shouldn't be a surprise to us

- A. Natural man's inclination is to push God away – not to draw near to follow Him
 - 1). Where did that come from? From Adam the original rebel
He fell and passed on that rebellious nature to all of his descendants – Us!
- B. Therefore we are all born in a state of spiritual death
 - 1). If we can see what spiritual death is in Adam
We'll know why man acts the way they do towards God

ADAM AND SPIRITUAL DEATH

- A. God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of any tree in the garden but one
 - 1). The warning – you eat of that fruit and you will die
That death would be experienced in two ways

- a). He would die physically – not right away but eventually – he was created to live forever
- b). He would die spiritually – that would happen immediately when he ate the fruit
- B. What was the evidence of this Spiritual death
 - 1). He no longer desired God
 - 2). He used to run to God to fellowship in the garden NOW he runs from God and hides
 - a). The desire for God and His ways were gone!

Point: That is spiritual death – that is how we are all born – rebels by nature

We don't want God – we don't want to go His way

- A. Paul points out how the natural man feels about God

Ro 8:7 (ESV) For the mind that is set on the flesh (the unbeliever) *is hostile to God*, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
- B. And unless the Spirit changes that by illuminating to us the truth about our sin
And convincing us that God's only solution for that sin and guilt is through God's Son
 - 1). We will continue to be hostile and run from Him all the way to the grave and into eternity
- C. So this universal rage and rebellion against God is man simply being who man is
Apart from the saving work of God in their life
 - 1). One of the glorious things salvation does is restore those desires for God that were lost in the garden
 - 2). That is evidence of coming alive again spiritually

Transition: Because they are spiritually dead - have no desire for God - look at their desire. V 3

2. The plans of the rebel

Ps 2:3 (ESV) "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

- A. Where the believer delights in God's way
 - 1). Because we know His ways lead to a life filled with Him and His joy
- B. These rebels view God's ways – as restricting – hindering true life
 - 1). They view God as a cosmic killjoy – who wants to ruin all their fun

Thought: They believe one of Satan's most effective lies

That surrender to God and satisfaction in life are incompatible

- A. Therefore they don't think about how they can draw near to God – they plot how to push Him away
- B. They will cling to whatever comes along that can accomplish that
 - 1). That is why I think the theory of evolution became so widely accepted
It is able to get rid of God with a supposed scientific explanation.
You can sound intellectual while doing the most foolish thing possible. Reject God!
 - 2). And even though the evolutionary model makes no sense
 - a). To view the complexity of a single cell and say that happened by accident with no intelligent designer behind it
That takes more faith than I could ever have
 - b). They suppress the evidence that is proclaiming there is a designer behind this
Francis Crick (discovered DNA) "Biologists must *constantly keep in mind* that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved."
1a). Because intelligent design is the only logical conclusion for that complexity

Thought: We don't have time this morning to point out all the problems with evolution. They are numerous

- A. But why would this theory be embraced so universally when there is so much evidence of intelligent design?

Listen to the words of Richard Dawkins (famous evolutionist) "Biology is the study of complicated things *that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.*"

- B. But why has this theory where it's most famous proponents have to say things like that been embraced so universally
- 1). My theory – I don't think it's so much an intellectual reason as a spiritual one – gets rid of God
 - 2). Listen to these words from George Wald – American scientist and 1967 Nobel Prize winner
This is a heavy hitter who admits evolution is impossible – listen why he still embraces it
From Scientific American, August 1954: "When it comes to the origin of life, we have only two possibilities as to how life arose. One is spontaneous generation arising to evolution; the other is a supernatural creative act of God. There is no third possibility...Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved one hundred years ago by Louis Pasteur, Spallanzani, Reddy and others. That leads us scientifically to only one possible conclusion -- that life arose as a supernatural creative act of God...I will not accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God.
Therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation arising to evolution."
- a). Insanity from a genius! I choose to believe what I know is impossible EVEN though I might suffer for that for all of eternity...
 - 1a). Why? I don't want to believe in God
 - 2a). If I admit there is a creator I'm accountable to Him - I don't want to be
- Point:** So the world plots – schemes – plans how to cast off the restraint of God from their lives
- A. We see this in the universal embrace of evolution – the growing secular humanism - relativism
 - B. We see it in governments trying to rid themselves of God through legislation
- Transition:** So natural man naturally doesn't want God involved in their lives
- A. How does God respond to this worldwide rebellion – is He worried? Let's see in v. 4-6

II. THE INDIGNATION OF THE FATHER AGAINST THIS MUTINY IN HIS CREATION

Ps 2:4-6 (ESV) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁽⁵⁾ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁽⁶⁾ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

1. Doesn't seem like He's worried at all – doesn't even arise – remains seated

- A. And He laughs – little man challenging God is not a threat to Him one bit.
 - B. This is the one that created all we see in 6 days – by simply saying "let there be"
 - C. This is the one Isaiah says "His hand spans the universe He made" – big hand!
- Thought:** Here is little man shaking his fist at Almighty God – saying "You will not rule over me"
- A. I'm reminded of the story of Ellie Quo – 32 year old Australian man – trained in Kung fu
 - 1). Eventually he reached a level where his instructor told him
You can now kill animals with your bare hands
 - 2). Ellie decided to test it out by taking on what he considered THE alpha predator
 - 3). He snuck into the Melbourne zoo at night and scaled the lion enclosure
 - 4). The fight ended with predictable results – Ellie Quo became "Lion chow"
 - B. We think "Mr. Quo, what were you thinking? That is insane!"
 - 1). *But that is sanity compared to challenging the one who created the lion*
 - 2). It is insanity to go to war with the one who is sustaining your very life
 - a). The one who holds your very next breath in His hands
Job 12:10 (ESV) In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.
 - b). Every breath the sinner takes is a gift of mercy from Him
Just a little more time to come to their senses and repent
 - 3). But God at any time can say "This is your last breath"
 - a). Why Scripture says "Today is the day of salvation" – tomorrow is not guaranteed

b). In the news Friday – person sitting in their car in NY – a crane falls on them!

Transition: So man speaks – you will not rule over us – God laughs – THEN God speaks

A. It is a very simple statement – but for these rebels David says these words are filled with terror

3. God has set His King on the throne

Ps 2:5–6 (ESV) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁽⁶⁾ “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

A. See why these words are so terrifying in next section

III. THE INSTALLATION OF GOD’S SON WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS

Ps 2:7–9 (ESV) I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁽⁸⁾ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁽⁹⁾ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

1. The son is eternal

Cults try to use this verse to teach Christ isn’t eternal.

Ps 2:7 (ESV) I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; *today I have begotten you.*

A. See. He was begotten – He didn’t exist and then He did – He wasn’t eternal- He was created. Sorry. No!

1). But what does the Bible say – compare scripture with scripture – heresies disappear

B. Jesus was not created – because He is the creator

Speaking of Jesus: Col 1:16 (ESV) For *by him all things were created*, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

C. John tells us He is eternal. He was with God the Father in eternity past

Jn 1:1 (ESV) *In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Verse 14 tells us that Jesus is the Word.

Point: So Jesus is eternal – has always been the eternal Son – second member of the trinity

A. “Today I have begotten you?” = is simply talking about the incarnation of Christ

1). Where the Father and Son entered into a new phase of that Father/Son relationship

2). Always eternally the Son – here He becomes incarnationally the Son – now in human form

Transition: Notice what the Father said to the Son

2. The Son’s inheritance

Ps 2:8 (ESV) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

A. The Father gives the Son everything! Some have called this a love gift from the Father to His Son

1). Giving Him a people from every nation who would love Him, serve Him, worship Him, bring Him glory

Does that happen? The scene in heaven: Re 7:9–10 (ESV) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, *from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb*, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ⁽¹⁰⁾ and crying out with a loud voice, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

a). These are all those who bowed to His authority – in heaven with Him! What a scene!

Question: But what about those who don’t bow? These rebels are still part of that gift to the Son

And they will still bring Him glory! In the end all things bring Him glory!

A. But the way they bring Him glory is why David said in v. 5 these words that Christ is King are filled with terror

B. Scripture tells us there is coming a day when *everyone will bow including these who have rejected Christ’s rule*

- 1). God is going to draw the curtains on sin – say enough
And all who have rejected Christ will be called to the Great White Throne judgment
 - a). The books will be opened and every sin read – it is all recorded! There will be no doubt they are guilty
 - 2). Then in one last act before they are cast away from God into eternity **THEY WILL BOW**
Php 2:9–11 (ESV) ...God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ⁽¹⁰⁾ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ⁽¹¹⁾ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- C. How heartbreaking – all these individuals bowing
Admitting Christ is their King – He is their Lord
their plot to break His chains failed *but it will be too late to change their eternity*
- 1). So one day everyone will acknowledge His authority over them
Even Satan – every knee will bow and every tongue confess
 - 2). Interesting verse in Isaiah 14 about Satan and how he will be viewed one day
Isa 14:16 (NLT) Everyone there will stare at you and ask, 'Can this be the one who shook the earth and the kingdoms of the world?'
 - a). My opinion – this happens as he is bowing to Jesus and calling Him Lord

Transition: In v. 9 the Psalmist shows the absolute power of Christ's reign and the foolishness of thinking you can win a war against Him

3. The Son's Power

Ps 2:9 (ESV) You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

- A. Nations and rulers are under a false illusion that they are so powerful
 - 1). They can defend themselves because of their nuclear arsenals – their military might
- B. For the rebel there is no defense against God
 - 1). For those who reject His authority there is no defense against His wrath!
 - 2). He can destroy the rebels and the nations they dwell in as easily as one shatters a potter's vessel into 1000's of pieces with an iron rod
 - a). How foolish to test Him and think you will win!

Transition: What we've seen

- A. The inclination of natural man – rebellion against God
- B. The indignation of the Father against this mutiny in His creation
- C. The installation of God's Son as the authority over all things including those who reject Him
- D. Now we move to the invitation by God's Spirit to sinful man – so much grace
 - 1). God has warned the rebel – now the Spirit calls them to respond accordingly

IV. THE INVITATION OF GOD'S SPIRIT TO CHANGE SIDES

Ps 2:10–12 (ESV) Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers 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, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Intro: I say this is the Spirit speaking because it is His ministry to speak through God's Word to the lost

- A. He is the one who convicts the sinner of sin and convinces them that God's only solution for that sin is found in His Son

Transition: Let's see the proper response in light of the truths we've seen

1. The proper response is to listen carefully

Ps 2:10 (ESV) Now therefore, O kings, *be wise; be warned*, O rulers of the earth.

- A. God has warned the rebel with verse after verse of sobering truth – they have seen their end
 - B. The one who is wise will not ignore these truths – they will listen and respond accordingly
- Transition:** Going to take some liberties and for second response - I'm going to move v. 12 up one verse
- A. I think David puts that last because it is so important – he wants to leave the reader with it
 - B. But from a NT – Gospel standpoint –I want to put it before service
 - C. Here's the question – what should the rebel who takes this warning seriously do?

2. The second response is to Kiss the Son

Ps 2:12 (ESV) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

- A. See the choice Kiss the Son or perish – Kiss the Son and know His love – refuse and experience wrath
 - 1). We must not soften that – that is what it says – therefore that is what God means
 - 2). Again the the urgency - His anger can be kindled – you can perish in the way - tomorrow is not guaranteed

Question: What does Kiss the Son mean? The person in this time would understand completely

- A. This kind of kiss was a symbol of affection and submission – it was an act of worship and loyalty
- 1 Ki 19:18 (ESV)** Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, *and every mouth that has not kissed him.*” (All who have not aligned themselves with him)

Point: Saying everyone who desires to escape judgment must go to Christ and align themselves with Him

- A. This is what Peter said in Acts 3

Acts 3:19 (NIV) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...

 - 1). We turn from our sins in repentance
 - We turn to God by faith – embracing His Son
 - Trusting His work rather than ours for salvation
- B. We embrace Jesus because there is no other way to be saved – no other way to be right with God

Jn 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Thought: This is where it all begins – we hear the warnings – see our true condition – we're guilty before God

- A. We see that God's only solution for that sin is through embracing Christ by faith
 - 1). We go to Him – ask Him to save us – and give us the power to follow Him
 - 2). He changes us – we come alive spiritually – those desires for God lost in the garden are restored
- B. Now that we are saved – we know His love – His grace

NOW we can move to the next response - NOW we can serve with the right motives

 - 1). **Important:** We aren't serving to earn salvation – we serve because we have salvation
 - a). Therefore our service becomes an act of worship to the one who has loved us so much

3. The third response is to serve the Lord

Ps 2:11 (ESV) Serve the LORD with fear...

- A. We've bowed to the King – we read His word and we see what He desires and we obey

Tt 2:14 (ESV) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession *who are zealous for good works.*

 - 1). We see even though we weren't saved by works
 - Works are very important after we are saved
 - Eph 2:8–9 (ESV)** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁽⁹⁾ not a result of works, *so that no one may boast.*
 - Saved by faith alone but read on: Eph 2:10 (ESV)** For we are his workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works,* which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- B. We serve with fear – not a cringing fear like a slave afraid of getting beat - we are His beloved children
 - 1). We serve reverently – with a strong desire to please Him in our service
 - a). This proper reverence leads us to serve with excellence – nothing half-hearted about it

Transition: Again. We heed the warnings about our rebellion – we see we are going to bow eventually

- A. So we THINK – Bow now while it changes our eternity
- B. The one we bow to is Jesus Christ our King
 - We give up self-rule and align ourselves with Him and His ways
- C. Then out of a heart of love and gratitude
 - 1). We start to serve as an act of worship – we desire to please Him – there is a healthy fear about NOT pleasing Him with our life

4. The fourth response: is to have Joy with trembling

Ps 2:11 (ESV) Serve the LORD with fear, *and rejoice with trembling.*

- A. This is the proper balance of the Christian life
 - 1). I love walking with God – I enjoy God – that is what I was created for
 - There is an intimacy there – I run to Him and I can just be me – I love being a Christian
- B. BUT that familiarity with God is also mixed with a great respect
 - 1). He is my Father but He is also Almighty God
 - 2). Great joy and intimacy and great respect –
 - He is my Father – He is God!*

CONCLUSION

1. What a Psalm – a warning to the rebel – YOU LOSE in the end

- A. You may think your life is going great – but your life will come to an end – then what?
 - 1). You are heading to a meeting with YOUR king and you will bow
 - Wisdom shouts out - bow now while it can still change where you will spend eternity

2. Go to Him by faith – trusting in His work to be sufficient to save you

- A. Cry out to Him to have mercy on you – to save you and forgive you
 - Is 55:7 (ESV)** let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, *for he will abundantly pardon.*
- B. Then after you're saved – serving Him becomes important – what Scripture calls you to do
 - 1). We're not saved by works but after being saved we are called to works - called to serve our king
 - That usually begins in the church you attend
 - 2). We do this with a good attitude - with excellence - Romans 12:1 says service is an act of worship
- C. Then we must fight against the spirit of this age – taking God so lightly – like one of the boys
 - 1). We rejoice in Him with a joy that is inexpressible and full of glory
 - a). The judge has become my Father – Jesus has taken my punishment - my shelter from wrath
 - The wrath of God hits him instead of me
 - Therefore I am blessed
 - 2). But I must always remember My Father is God
 - a). Therefore my joy is mixed with reverence
 - I love Him – I enjoy Him – I bow to Him