

Title: Beholding the Glory of the Risen King

Passage: Psalm 2

Speaker: Bruce A. Ware, Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

Summary:

I. The Raging of the Nations (vv 1-3)

II. The Rebuke of the Lord (vv 4-6)

III. The Retaliation of the Son (vv 7-9)

IV. The Refuge of the Wise (vv 10-12)

Key Truths:

- When Jesus comes again, the judgment of God will be poured out. There will be no mercy, gospel, or forgiveness for it will be too late.
- In light of the reality of God's wrath, be amazed at His love providing a way of salvation through His Son.
- We do not know when God's wrath will be kindled. The time is short. So use time wisely to bring the greatest glory to God. Honor the Son. Follow His ways.

Application:

- Knowing the future reign of Christ over all, do not despair, but take heart and have hope!
- Today is the day of salvation!
- How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Describe your attitude toward God and his ways? How has it changed? Where is it now and what steps will you take going forward?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Passage:

Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

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

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 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.

EXPOSITION

Overview

BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE REIGNING KING (Psalm 2)

I. The Raging of the Nations (vv 1-3)

II. The Rebuke of the Lord (vv 4-6)

III. The Retaliation of the Son (vv 7-9)

IV. The Refuge of the Wise (vv 10-12)

BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE REIGNING KING (Psalm 2)

Introduction

• **How full or complete is your Christology? Who is Jesus, as you understand Him to be?**

- Is it limited to just Christmas and Easter?
 - One who came; one who died.

• **A Study in Contrasts — the first (John 3:17) and second John 5:27-29) comings of Christ**

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- The very same Jesus who came not to be served but to serve as the ransom for many and give His life for our sins will come again.

John 5:27-29

And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

- When Jesus comes again, the judgment of God will be poured out.

- There will be no mercy, gospel, or forgiveness for it will be too late. When Jesus comes again, full judgment will come.

• Background to Psalm 2

- a psalm of David, despite lacking superscription (see Acts 4:25);
- an inaugural or enthronement psalm
 - applicable in part to David but only fully applicable to David's promised Son (2 Sam 7:12-13),
 - the coming eternal King of kings (cf. Luke 1:31-33).

Luke 1:31-33

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

I. The Raging of the Nations (vv 1-3)

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

- This verse describes the setting: Nations/peoples (v. 1); kings/rulers (v. 2) - against the LORD and against his Anointed
 - though they do not even know that they are doing this!
- But this is encouraging: even as we see so many things that are against God, God knew it would be and all within His plan.
- How do they stand against God?
 - They view the good and wise ways of God as "fetters" and "bonds" to be cast aside (v. 3), but they devise a "vain thing" (v.1)
 - Meaning = I want to be in charge.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- See original sin: the desire to live as one wants is nothing new.

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

- All the rage and anger against God is in vain. All folly and futile.

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

- How foolish that they who would reject God is the One who provides them with all they have!

II. The Rebuke of the Lord (vv 4-6)

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

- Laughter is God's response (v. 4),
 - When do you see laughter in our world? When one is much more powerful and greater than the other.
 - Analogy: Big man vs. small dog
 - Here: there is no competition nor comparison between God and the nations/leaders in opposition to Him.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

- which soon turns to fury (v. 5)
 - Anger is a true, genuine emotion by God.
 - The wrath of God is real
 - See Genesis 6: the Flood
 - fully expressed at the sin and wickedness of man.
- in light of God's wrath, we should be amazed at His love providing a way of salvation from His wrath.

Ephesians 2:3

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

- God's answer to this rebellion?
 - Installation of his King on Mt. Zion, the future King from David (v. 6)
 - Zion = Jerusalem

III. The Retaliation of the Son (vv 7-9)

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

I will tell of the decree:

- Decree — indicates God's plan from eternity, not an ad hoc response to the present rebellion

Ephesians 1:4

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

1 Peter 1:20

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

- This points to the Trinity.
 - LORD = God the Father
 - You are my Son = God the Son

"You are My Son, today I have begotten You"

- Phrase has been subject to much debate.

"begettings" - 3 meanings:

1. **Begetting of God the Son**

- God the Son was never created but eternally came from God the Father.
- Begotten = points to identity.
 - God the Son coming from and having the same nature as God the Father.
- See Nicene Creed

2. **Begetting of the God Man (incarnation)**

- God the Son taking on human nature.

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

3. Begetting of the Son King

- God the Son begotten as the risen king.

Psalms 2:7

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

- Why this particular "begetting"?
 - quoted by Paul in Acts 13:33 of the risen Son

Acts 13:33-34

this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.' And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

- Giving of authority to God the Son

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- "has been given to me"
 - Right given after His death and resurrection.

God the Son eternally has authority.

- He created the nations.

John 1:3

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- God the Son created all things. As Creator, He has complete right and rule over all things.

Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

- How was this a temptation to Jesus?
 - Satan = avoid the way of the cross. Bypass the means.
 - But Jesus indeed won the right to the nations through the cross.
- "Ask of Me..." - the nations are the possession of this risen, exalted Son as they are given to him;
 - He has earned the right to reign over them
 - (cf., Matt 4:8-10; 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Phil 2:9- 11; Heb 1:1-4; Rev 5)

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

• **V. 9 — Fulfilled at the 2nd coming of Christ (Rev 19:11-16, 19-21)**

- The reigning King will bring full judgment.

Revelation 19:13-16

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

- Full judgement will come on all to those who opposed God.

IV. The Refuge of the Wise (vv 10-12)

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 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.

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

- Kings and judges addressed again, this time in an appeal of mercy.
- The fury of God, though real, does not cancel out the mercy of God toward the very sinners who incite his fury and deserve his wrath.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 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.

- One's right response to such deserved fury and undeserved mercy: bow, repent, worship, rejoice, and tremble.

for his wrath is quickly kindled

- We do not know the timing of our lives. God's wrath will quickly come.

Conclusion and Application

• What is your attitude toward God and his ways?

For those not in Christ:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- If you are not confident that you are saved: come to Jesus today!

For those in Christ:

- Knowing the future reign of Christ over all, do not despair, but take heart and have hope!
- Today is the day of salvation! How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!
- We do not know when God's wrath will be kindled.
 - The time is short.
 - Life is short.
 - So use time wisely to bring the greatest glory to God.
 - Honor the Son.
 - Follow His ways.

1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.