

The Centrality of the Son
Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel
Psalms Study - emphasis on Psalm 2:1-12
Sunday – February 12th, 2017

Key Words

- Lord (4)
- take (4)
- earth (3)
- against (2)

CONTEXT of Psalm 2: Psalm 1 & 2 provide the introduction to the rest of the Psalms. Psalm 1 provides the clear analysis of the difference between the man of God and the sinner. Psalm 2 declares the difference between those fighting with God and those who have done “homage to the Son” (put their confidence in Him). Psalm 2 therefore brings the Messiah (Christ) into focus as the central theme of history. It clearly declares God’s intent to place His Son as the authority over all the earth, and gives warning to those who continue to rebel against God’s plan. Just as the theme of Psalm 1 is essential to understand the reality of salvation, Psalm 2 is essential to understand the reality of God’s plan for Christ and for all who reside on earth. It is the perfect message for the beginning of a new year in the latter days.

Introduction:

- Written 3000 years ago by David. Yet a perfect description of history & accurate condensed explanation of God’s plan. It touches Christ birth, mans rejection of Him, God’s wrath (especially implied is the tribulation), and the coming of Christ ultimately to establish His kingdom.
- Only God could prophecy this Psalm with such incredible precision!
- As Psalm 1 is so important in the basics of two roads of relationship – this Psalm is fundamental to learning the plan of God for the culmination of all things in Christ – it encompasses a timeless understanding:
- This Psalm addresses so many timeless issues:
 - The issue of man’s rebellion in sin - & the Gospel.
 - God’s view of sin & rebellion & what He will do concerning it.
 - The sending of Messiah, & His ultimate reign!
- Although it can be applied generally as a broad view of God’s plan –it is very specifically aimed at end-time intensity – see how this addresses the future:
 - **Vs 4** – who “sits in the heavens” – Christ, but not until His ascension.
 - **Vs 7** – “today I have begotten you” – that is the incarnation (Christmas).
 - **Vs 8** – “ask of Me...nations..end of earth” – the future reign of Christ.
 - **Vs 9** – “break them with a rod of iron” – that is the 2nd coming.
 - **Vs 12** – “His wrath may soon be kindled” – the tribulation prior to His reign.

Point: This Psalm prophetically covers God’s encompassing plan from incarnation to Christ kingdom – the restoration of all things, with special emphasis on man with a warning – we are now in a position to recognize this as the season of latter days!

I. (1-3) **The declaration of the wicked**

- A. **Vs.1 - The reasonable question** – a question of man’s insane rebellion against God – for all rebellion is ultimately against God. Rejection of God is a truth that has existed from the beginning (Cain), but is seen in climatic intensity just prior to the establishment of Christ as king.
- Why – “why?” – the idea is that it does not make sense – unreasonableness.
 - It is a rhetorical question – a question to produce an effect not an answer – for there is no reasonable answer – “uproar” is rebellious activity against God.
 - The absurdity is the finite creature against the infinite creator, the weak & foolish finite against the all powerful infinite.
 - “Uproar” – literally means “rage” – “a banding together for evil intent” (Unger)
 - Concept is deep aggressive agitation – like the stirring of a fire-ant bed.
 - “Devising” – to ponder, effort contriving, planning – tense is continuous.
 - “Vain” – empty – worthless – things that result in nothing of value accomplished.
 - This is more than mere rejection – active intentional aggressive rebellion.
 - This relates to the fallen nature of man – willful truth suppression.
 - This should remind us historically of Gen. 6:5 “every thought & intention”

- The flood, Sodom, judgment of Israel – judgment on individual nations.
- In each situation evil, even in the name of good, had become the norm.
- OT times (Isa. 5:20). Such is our time & it is encompassing all societies.
- Seen via discernment - the illogical focus of society in general – you have all manner of people completely sold-out to foolish causes, ways of thinking, concepts of reasoning that is wrong, worthless, detrimental – things like evolution, climate change, racially charged concepts, imagined & illogical inequities – people believing lies & given over to them in committed zeal.
- This is the “depraved mind” of Rom. 1:28 – a rationally disqualified mind that cannot reason, or think in terms of reason.
- The peoples - true of every man outside the new birth – varying degrees – but the line of insanity counter to truth & reason is growing larger & larger.
- The Bible's clear defining of man is the only explanation for the otherwise unexplainable nature of man & his irrational actions.

Point: In a general sense - this has been going on since the garden – history is a story of man's continuous rebellion against God – but it continues to a broader intensity, serious aggression, & sophistication in the latter times.

B. (2-3) **Their rebellious actions**

- **Vs 2** – kings & rulers – equivalent to all leaders “of the earth” – establish their positions “stands” & even get together in their wickedness “against the Lord.”
 - All false beliefs, causes, & activities dedicated to such are idolatries.
 - They are contrary to, and against God! Not innocent disagreements, but any position against the truth, against the Bible is direct opposition to God.
 - The listing of anti-God, evil, & destructive decisions is near endless.
- The “anointed” – word used for Messiah – so ultimately all this evil, planning & rebellious effort is aimed directly against God, and also against His Christ – especially the ruler-ship of Christ (as we shall see).
- **Vs. 3** – “fettters” – any restraints, “cords” – rope or band that confines.
 - This is truth suppression coupled with animosity & active rebellion.
 - People refusing any right God or Christ has over them.
 - We will be our own gods – we will refuse God & His wisdom – be our own rulers, and let our evil flow to any unconfined degree we want it to flow.

Point: Any fair minded person (Christian) should see this going on in full swing today on a totalitarian scale – man is rebelling against God / Christ in all manner of ways – denying His right over them, denying His Word, and openly rebelling in sin – appears to be getting away with it!

II. (4-6) **The declaration of the Sovereign God**

A. (4) **The ridicule by God**

- **Vs. 4** - Here is a dramatic contrast – the scheming, agitated, stirred up rebellion and the calm laughter of God.
 - Idea of “sits” – God is not in the least challenged by this rebellion. Christ is sitting at the right hand (Ps 110:1).
 - “Laughs” – derision, scorn – God making light of the preposterous nature of man's rebellion – man's behavior is irrational (his position, his weakness, his limited knowledge, his limited ability, his vulnerability, his susceptibility to tragedy & death) etc... etc...man cannot win, such rebellion is insane.
 - “Scoffs” – mock them – to express scornful disapproval – man's activity is so foolish it is only appropriate for God to scoff in clarifying disapproval.
- These are so reprobate in their thinking as to think they can break the covenant of God (Gen 3:15; Gen 12:3; 2 Sam 7:8-17; Psalm 89:3-4,30-37)

Point: God is viewing the ridiculousness of His creation and the futility of actively rebelling against Him. He is saying – such action is without any measure of wisdom or hope – to fight against God is the epitome of foolishness – yet that is what all do outside of following Christ!

B. (5) **The righteous indignation of God**

- **Vs. 5** - God may be sitting and laughing, but He will also act.
- “Anger” – this is often forgotten by those who only talk about His love (& skew that). “Speak to them” – implies power – He spoke the world into existence.
 - “Fury” – is the same as wrath & translated wrath elsewhere.
 - Wrath – is associated with anger, vengeance, & punishment – but know that God’s wrath is always perfect in justice & proportion.
 - Who will be the instrument of God’s wrath – the Son (all that follows).

C. (6) **The rule of Christ determined by God**

- **Vs. 6** – Man is rebelling, but “as for Me” – “installed My King” – God is moving to the restoration of that promised by God at the fall (Gen 3:15) – the Savior.

Point: all the rebellion of man will not stop or prevent the installation of Christ!

- Is this a literal installation in Jerusalem, or merely symbolizing heaven?
- Well? He is already in heaven, but what is God doing (Ps. 110) “until”!
- Other promised details are here as well (His birth vs 7 – was that literal?)
- So the possession of the earth from Jerusalem – will that be literal?
 - If one is – how can I say the other is not? Can God be trusted?
- Isa 24:21-23; Zech 8:3; Rev 5:7; 10 – Christ takes the title deed!

III. (7-9) **The declaration by the Son by the authority of the Father**

A. (7-8) **The resolved decrees**

- decree – something determined and ordered by God – there is no debate, no democratic vote, no discussion – what God will do & nothing can stand in the way – what will God do?
 1. **Vs. 7 - Royal birth - the incarnation** – the supernatural birth of the God-man – God with us (Emanuel) – this is Christ! – there can be no doubt!
 2. **Vs. 8 - Receiving possession of the earth** - Ask of me – rhetorical question – God’s gift to the Son “All authority has been given” (Mat 28:19) – but it is not fully & literally expressed (Ps 110) until He comes.
 - The possession of the earth destroyed in the fall – is restored in Christ!
 - This is Revelation 5 – scroll handed to Christ – the deed of possession of the earth – followed by His return in Rev 11:15-18 Rev 19, & His reign in Rev 20:4

B. (9) **The removal of all rebellious**

- **Vs. 9** - This is Rev 19:15-21– the ultimate culmination of what is here prophesied.

IV. (10-12) **The decisive warning and promise**

A. **Vs. 10** - **The rational warning**

- This will occur – there is no power to prevent it!
- “Discernment” – be prudent, act wisely, show understanding

B. **Vs. 11** - **The reasonable response**

1. **Reverent worship**

- Make Christ Lord of your life – make His will your will, bow to Him only!

2. **Rejoicing in the promise**

- Be happy in the future prospect of His reign, do so with fear lest you be so foolish to turn away from Him.

C. **Vs. 12** - **The reception of the Son**

1. **Respect**

- “Homage” – kiss, touch, embrace the Son – honor Him – put Him in His rightful place as King & Lord (worship, hope, trust, faith, & living actions).

2. **Refuge**

- “Refuge” – to flee to for protection and hope – root idea is trust, confidence.
 - There is no other means of escape, no other hope – God has provided His Son, and those who refuse Him will pay the consequences.
- “Blessed” – happy – they have a great future – that is the context – they alone have a real hope, eternal life with Christ in His kingdom, & glorious bliss!

Point: The reception of the Son is for living right now – it is the very definition of Christianity – embracing Him, taking refuge in Him (trust Him), & resting in Him as the sovereign is the greatest blessing now & forever!

Application:

- We face a challenging time – the intensity of the mess man is making grows - all because of prideful direct rebellion against God –but it is all temporary.
- Be comforted to note that God is aware of all sin, & scoffs at man’s rebellion.
- There is a time coming when He will act to remove what remains of His church.
- Be mindful the rebellion will be put down - there is coming a time when He will come in incredible wrath – this too may begin in 2017 – the season is ripe.
- Christ will reign on Mount Zion – He alone is the answer to the world’s problems.
- Christ will rule with a rod of iron – perfect rule, perfect justice, no rebellion – is He your hope? Does this knowledge give you great comfort – the line is drawn!
- Today is the day of salvation – when these things begin to happen, as He has promised - it will be too late.
- Why look anywhere but to Christ?, why fight against Him?, Kiss the Son!