



December 15, 2019 | Psalm 2

Icebreaker: What hints in the Christmas story can you think of that point to Jesus' power and rule?

Psalm 2 is a “royal” psalm, concerned with the Davidic monarchy and his heir, the Messiah. When the people of God sing Psalm 2, they remind themselves of how God made David and his descendants to be kings in order to enable them to fulfill the very purpose for which Abraham was called (to bring blessing to all nations, Gen. 12:1–3).¹ Psalm 1 answers the question of who God blesses, Psalm 2 answers the question of how He blesses.

Read Psalm 2:1–12:

¹Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²The 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.”

⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵Then 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.”

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

¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss 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. (ESV)

The word *Messiah* comes from transliterating the Hebrew word for “Anointed,” and the word *Christ* comes from translating “Anointed” into Greek. — *ESV Study Bible Note*

[Q] Who are these people, and who are they plotting against (v. 1-2)? What are they plotting to do (v. 3)?

[Q] What does the psalmist appear to think about their plans (v. 1)?

¹ Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 943.

Psalm 2 is quoted or alluded to at least seventeen times in the New Testament, more than any single psalm. If you have time, read Hebrews 1:1–5 and Acts 13:32-33.

[Q] Read Acts 4:18-30. How is the rebellion described in Psalm 2:1-2 reflected in the actions against Peter and John in Acts 4?

[Q] Why do the people of God have no reason to fear? How would you rate your faith in God's control and ultimate victory?

[Q] God has chosen His King—Jesus, His Son. And resistance is futile. Does the picture of Jesus in Psalm 2 surprise you? Why or why not?

Apply

[Q] How do we find blessing according to this psalm?

“To “kiss his son” is to rest in and live for him. If we do this, we have assurance that no matter what happens to us, ultimately everything will be all right. If we don't live for him, we end up fighting God himself. So “there is no refuge from him—only in him.””
– Pastor Tim Keller

[Q] Look again at Psalm 2:11. We're called to serve, fear, rejoice in and tremble at Jesus—all at the same time.
Which aspect of your relationship with the Christ have you been most forgetful of? How will you change that this week?

Pray that those you know who reject Christ would bow the knee joyfully to Him *now* before they have to bow the knee before Him in fear.

Pray
