

House of Prayer **DIALOGOS**

PSALM 2

THE HOUSE of PRAYER is a HOUSE of PREPARATION #04 • J.S. Boegl

TEXT: *Psalm 2*

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

"I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges 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, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 2 is a 4-part prophetic drama about the Father establishing Jesus' leadership over the earth. God intends for this narrative to help us cultivate an appropriate, prayerful response today so that we have the grace to stand with Him in the hour when these events are being fulfilled.

Most Christians live largely unclear and a little apathetic about even the *major features* surrounding God's end-times' storyline.

Without a clear understanding of these realities we live unsure of the purpose of our lives, foggy about our calling, uncertain of our priorities, unconvinced of God's loving presence, prone to distraction, with little appreciation for what's "at-risk", and little perspective on just how prayer contributes to our vitality.

Cultivating living understanding about these realities is like digging a well from which we can draw passion, exhilaration, wisdom, power, and strength to persevere in our daily relationship with Jesus.

LESSON PREPARATION QUESTIONS:

What aspects of Jesus' return are most important for the Church to understand?

Would you be able to cite specific scripture(s) to back up your belief about these aspects of Jesus' return?

I. THE RAGE OF THE NATIONS AGAINST THE LORD (Psalm 2:1-3)

- A. **Rage:** David prophesied that the nations will rage in anger against Jesus' leadership, His standards of morality, and His right to hold every individual and nation accountable to His ways.
 - 1. John highlighted this same historical reality in the book of Revelation.
The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come...that You...should destroy those who destroy the earth. (Revelation 11:18)
- B. **People plot together:** People in every level of society will plot strategies, and use their influence to mobilize the masses to rebel against God's righteousness, and resist God's leadership.
- C. **The rulers take counsel together:** The rulers speak of the leaders of the "culture": socio/political, economic, spiritual, educational, military, entertainment, media, arts, athletics, etc. They will use

social unrest, hardship and injustice to exert pressure on each other to make deeper and deeper darkness the cultural norm.

- D. ***Kings set themselves together***: The kings of the nations will set their hearts to fully support the intent of the people and the influence of the rulers under them. The term kings includes the heads of state, e.g., presidents, prime ministers, and legislators.
- E. ***Against the Lord and His Christ***: The kings, rulers, and people will specifically plot against
 1. ...the laws of the Lord. They will seem foolish, “unenlightened”, and even “dangerous” to the well-being of society.
 2. ... the Father and His anointed One (Jesus). They will protest the concept that Jesus, the Son of David, is the uniquely the Son of the Father, and the only One worthy to rule all the nations.
- F. ***Break Their bonds and cast away Their cords***: The plan against God will be focused on casting away the authority of His Word (v. 3) from all aspects of the culture. These people will see God’s Word in a negative light, as if it were “bonds” that enslave them and “cords” that bind them from being “authentically human”.

DIALOGUE QUESTION:

Before the Lord returns, sin will intensify its grip on the nations of the earth. There is an unholy momentum building as many mock and attack God’s commands, seeking to remove all moral boundaries from the culture, so that the curse of sin is free to run rampant through sexual lust, greed, lewdness, violence, hostility, shame and perversion.

In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [antichrist] shall arise...who understands sinister schemes. (Daniel 8:23)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

In what way(s) do you see this happening in our culture, today?

What are two or three signs that can serve as an early-warning-system for our soul to keep us from falling victim to these destructive deceptions?

II. THE FATHER’S RESPONSE (Psalm 2:4-6)

- A. ***God sits on His throne and laughs*** with full confidence. His laughter puts humanity’s plot in perspective. We are small creatures who live for a mere eighty years. God’s whole Person fills a trillion galaxies and He has no beginning and no end. His laughter denotes just how small our power is to overthrow the intent of God’s heart.
- B. ***The Lord will speak to them in His wrath.*** One of the chief ways that He will do this is through His end-time, prophetic messengers.
- C. With fierce anti-Semitism, the nations will attack God’s expressed intent to establish Jesus in ***Zion*** (Israel), from where He will rule all the nations.

DIALOGUE QUESTION:

On a scale of 0 - 5 how uncomfortable do you feel in talking about the issue of God’s wrath in our culture? In your personal theology, is God allowed to have wrath? Why? When? How? On the basis of what scripture(s)?

III. JESUS PRAYS FOR THE FULL RELEASE OF HIS INHERITANCE (Psalm 2:7-9)

- A. Jesus declares the divine decree to the Father as He prays for the full release of His dominion over all nations to be manifested openly. Jesus' *inheritance* is to possess a people; His redeemed Bride.
- B. We are to partner with Jesus in praying for the release of His dominion in the nations. The apostles followed the model of Psalm 2:7-8 by joining Christ in His ministry of intercession in asking God to manifest His power before the hostile leaders in Jerusalem.
“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together...Lord, look on their threats and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done...” (Acts 4:27-29)

DIALOGUE QUESTION:

Note: (Acts 15:13-17) is a picture of God answering Cornelius' prayer, releasing salvation to the Gentiles through Jesus, and fulfilling one key dimension of God's vast, world-wide plan. The point is: *“Who is Cornelius? On earth he was one simple man uttering weak prayers based what he saw revealed in the Word of God. In heaven God saw him as the vital partner through whom He was determined to fulfill one aspect of His plan.*

How does Cornelius' story encourage your heart in prayer? What are you praying for that seems weak but is filled with God's Word of promise?

IV. DAVID PROPHETICALLY WARNS THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS (Psalm 2:10-12)

- A. King David issues a solemn, fivefold warning/exhortation to the leaders, and to all people. No one can say that they have not been warned, or don't know how to respond to His purposes. It's wise for us to heed these five-fold exhortations as we seek to be prepared for the Day of the Lord.
1. ***Be wise O Kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth***
This is an exhortation to those who think they already have enough information to make sound judgments about God and His end-times purposes. We are warned to remain humble, teachable; to seek the Lord and ask Him for wisdom. (James 1:5)
 2. ***Serve the Lord with fear***
This is a simple call to obedience, based on the revelation that God is the eternal God and we are *other*. It's wise to cultivate the *fear of the Lord*; one Who is so *other* than us.
Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29) (For a more complete picture of the fear of the Lord read Hebrews 12:18-29)
 3. ***Rejoice with trembling***
This is an exhortation to mix our fear and awe at His holiness with the joy and exhilaration that comes from ***beholding Him in His beauty*** (Psalm 27:4) and being made ***“joyful”*** as we behold Him in His house of prayer. (Isaiah 56:7)
 4. ***Kiss the Son, let He be angry and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled*** (in His judgment against unrighteousness) ***but a little.***
a. One prominent greek word for worship is *proskuneow*. It literally means ***“to kiss toward”***. This is an exhortation to live a life of adoration, worship and first commandment love. Jesus is *worthy* (Revelation 5:12) to be loved, adored and worshipped. But He's also most *beautiful*. (Psalm 27:4; Psalm 45:2; Psalm 50:1-2; Isaiah 28:5; Zechariah 9:17)
 5. ***Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.***
This is an admonition to trust God and the way of His Word, *rather than* trust the mounting deception of the so-called wisdom of the world.
Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart. (Psalm 119:1-2)
- B. The Lord is orchestrating a prophetic response in His Church that will correspond with the five exhortations of verses 10-12. These *responses* can/will only be released in our world as the Church cultivates her voice in the place of prayer.

DIALOGUE QUESTION:

What are some specific ways that the truths in this Psalm exhort and encourage us to be people of prayer?

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