

PRAY

Good morning. I'm Robert...

Worship team...collection of songs.

Israel also had a collection of songs...individually known as psalms. And they've been put together in a collection known as the Psalms.

And somewhere down the line in the putting together of all these psalms, scribes intentionally placed an introduction at the beginning of the collection.

A 2-part introduction...psalm 1 and psalm 2

Several weeks ago I shared on Ps 1.

- Beautifully designed contrast between the righteous and the wicked, this choice between life and death
- This choice that is set before us is actually the structure of the entire Hebrew Scriptures (chart)

Psalm 2 is going to continue this thought of life vs. death, and in fact, Ps 2 picks up with a description of those who have chosen the path that leads to death... But this exploration of life and death is through the lens of two new themes that we get introduced to here in Psalm 2 – **Messiah and Kingdom**

Psalm 2

**[1] Why do the nations rage,  
And the people plot a vain thing?  
[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 break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us."  
[4] He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The Lord shall hold them in derision.  
[5] Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,**

**And distress them in His deep displeasure:  
[6] "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."  
[7] "I will declare the decree:  
The LORD has said to Me, 'You [are] My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.  
[8] Ask of Me, and I will give [You]  
The nations [for] Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth [for] Your possession.  
[9] You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "  
[10] Now therefore, be wise, O kings;  
Be instructed, you judges 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,  
When His wrath is kindled but a little.  
Blessed [are] all those who put their trust in Him.**

Let's start at the end for a second...

**Blessed [are] all those who put their trust in Him.**

"Blessed" → notice the same word that opens the first psalm concludes this psalm...like bookends.

- Not "God bless you", receive "blessing"
- But rather "the good life" that leads to blessing.
- Lit. "those who take refuge in him"

**[1] Why do the nations rage,  
And the people plot a vain thing?  
[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 break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us."**

“Rage” → Septuagint. Heb. conspire

“Plot” → same word translated as “meditate” in Ps 1 (*Heb. haga*)

**“Let us break their bonds...”**

It’s the story of the **tree of knowing good and bad** all over again...

Humanity choosing autonomy from God instead of desiring to be with him.

Sad part is those who choose this path don’t really know what they’re choosing. They think God’s cords and bands are that of slavery and bondage, but in reality God’s cords are that of love...see Hosea 11:4

**[4] I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped [and] fed them.**

We will come back to this stanza...

**[4] He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The Lord shall hold them in derision.**

God doesn’t mock like we mock...

His demeanor comes from the fact that people can’t get away from his sovereignty however hard they try.

It’s kinda like when we laugh not because something is funny, but because it’s so ludicrous.

It’s like gravity...

**[5] Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,  
And distress them in His deep displeasure:  
[6] "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."**

God’s anger... deep displeasure

Heb. *haron* → fierce anger

We’re introduced to the king...and here he is now speaking...

**[7] "I will declare the decree:**

**The LORD has said to Me, 'You [are] My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.**

Alluded to and quoted from multiple times in the N.T.

- Jesus' baptism (Mat 3:17), Transfiguration (Mat 17:5)
  - Mat 3:17 [17] **And suddenly a voice [came] from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**
  - Mat 17:5 [5] **While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**

But neither of these quotes reference the "begotten" part...

- Paul's exhibition of the gospel in Acts 13
  - Act 13:32-33 [32] **"And we declare (euangelizō) to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers. [33] "God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'**
    - This isn't about being created or born...its about a **manifestation to the world.**

**[8] Ask of Me, and I will give [You]  
The nations [for] Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth [for] Your possession.  
[9] You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "**

What is this describing?

Jesus asking for the bat?

In one sense maybe...but not in the way we might think it should play out...

Comp. God's mocking over this situation with the weeping of Jesus over Jerusalem → Luke 19:41-44, Luke 21:20-24

Luk 19:41-44

**41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.**

43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Luk 21:20-24

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Jesus sees the direction Jerusalem is going...and it's the direction of those who have thrown off the bands/cords of YHWH.

But there's another way to take this...

Remember this is poetry...I'm inclined to think there's something else going on...

There's an interesting use of this passage in the Revelation

**Rev 19:11-16** 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Act 4:24-31

24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You [are] God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 "who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' 27 "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 28 "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 "by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

This is the sense in which I think the King, God's son, Jesus, most fully "rules/breaks the nations with a rod of iron"--when his people pray and share the gospel.

After all...if God's enemies are turned into his friends aren't his enemies defeated?

This should be our response...prayer and declaring the gospel. To let Jesus, the Word of God, take care of it by preaching his death and resurrection and the implications thereof...

Sharp, two edged sword...

—that when we pledge our loyalty to him we become a new creation...we have eternal life.

Life and death connection come to a head here...

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

“Therefore” - because this is true (God’s sovereignty and power and authority, and all things will be subject under his feet)...be wise

“Wise” Heb. *sakal* → Gen 3

Here is the instruction and wisdom:

**Serve YHWH and kiss his son, the king.**

What does it mean to serve with fear and rejoice with trembling?

- Understanding the gravity of our actions/intents
  - We were enemies of God...that’s the whole premise of our salvation—that we are broken humans in desperate need of rescue.
  - And the actions of enemies of God are defeated one way or the other...either by repentance or by destruction.
- Humbly realizing the sovereignty and power of God
  - Death can be destroyed within us without being destroyed ourselves

Notice the Psalmist sees an **innate connection** between YHWH and his king, the son. “Serve the LORD...Kiss the son”

“Kiss” → symbol of allegiance...of loyalty to a king or master.

“Son” → borrowed Aramaic word for “son”

- Used in a pretty significant place in the O.T.
  - Dan 7:13 (son of man)
    - Dan 7:13-14 **[13] "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, [One] like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. [14] Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom [the one] Which shall not be destroyed.**

- Mat 26:63-64 **[63] But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" [64] Jesus said to him, "[It is as] you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."**
- Jesus sees his death as the means through which the mission of the "son of man" is accomplished...namely the subjecting of evil and chaos under his feet.

The charge of the psalmist is to pledge our allegiance to this son...  
The alternative is to perish.

Verse 12 parallels verse 6 in Psalm 1

- Psa 1:6 **[6] For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

**[12] 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.**

This is what we learn about God...

- As we read verse 12 through the lens of the entire story of scripture, we can see God's perfect justice and perfect mercy.
- From a human standpoint this feels like a tension...and I don't claim to understand it, nor do I think I'm meant to understand it.
  - But I can hold onto it...
- God's wrath..."kindled but a little"?
  - More appropriately..."quickly"
    - Matter of time, not amount
  - NOT → "you obeyed so you can live. You didn't obey so I have to kill you."
  - Notice "perish in the way"
- The options aren't: obey and live, don't and be killed



- The options are be destroyed by walking a path that leads to death  
OR take refuge in the King and find life.