



Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is the first of our summer series looking at what God is like. It is an enthronement psalm for Israel's monarchy, it would probably be sung or recited when a new king was enthroned. The language is very exaggerated in a way that points to the Messiah - the king for whom this is not exaggerated but literally true.

- **1-3** Rebellion against the king
- **4-6** God vindicates his king
- **7-9** Installation and rule of the king
- **10-12** Response to the king

Questions

1. Why do the nations want to be free from the rule of God's King? How do we see this in society? And in our own hearts?

The psalm starts with rebellion, rejection of God's King - fulfilled ultimately when humanity crucified God's Son (Acts 4:25-28). It talks about throwing off chains. Makes sense of foreign nations under the rule of Israel, they want to be free. But even these days, people think being under God's rule is oppressive, they want to be free. We want to be free ourselves, and prefer to live life our own way. Deep down we think God isn't good and that we are better off caring for ourselves. But as this psalm says, it's ugly.

2. How does the resurrection of Jesus fulfil v7 (as Paul claims in Acts 13:33)?

This is important partly because the NT claims it (while Psalm 2:7 doesn't seem to have anything to do with the resurrection), but also for our seeing who Jesus is. V7 is the king's words about God crowning him king.

If you read Psalm 2 sequentially, the king first gets rejected (v.1-3) but God just laughs and installs him as king anyway (v.4-6). They can't get rid of him. V7 is basically v6, but God speaking to the king rather than to the nations. This is exactly what we see in the resurrection. The Jewish leaders killed Jesus, because they didn't want him as king. But God raised him from the dead and installed him anyway.



They can't get rid of him. So the resurrection matches v7, as God's vindication. The resurrection shows Jesus really is God's true king, and he ascended to heaven and sat down and now reigns as king..

Romans 1:4 is very helpful - Paul claims Jesus was declared "Son of God in power" by his resurrection from the dead - exactly the same.

3. What is surprising about the last line of the psalm - "Blessed are all who take refuge in him"? Yet why does it make sense as the right application?

The king is given authority over the whole world (v8) to execute judgement on the rebels of v.1-3. Hence the warning to serve the Lord and kiss the Son - don't rebel. So it seems a surprise that the psalm promises blessing in the last line. This king is someone you want to run from. But actually, if Jesus really rules the whole world, you can't run from him. And so logically the only way is if we run to him and take refuge from judgement in him. Which points to the cross of course...

4. What do you think of when you think of Jesus as King? How do you feel about him from this psalm? How is it an encouragement?

Just sharing. Maybe we don't think much about Jesus as king at all. Or we think of him as a good king bestowing blessings, or ruling everything for our good. But this psalm is at the same time quite violent. The king will defeat and destroy his enemies. We need to be confronted by the majesty of Jesus, who is good but not safe.

5. When do you find it hard to obey Jesus? E.g. a conflict between what Jesus wants and what your boss wants? How does this psalm help you?

This is so common - we want to do what Jesus says but those around us want us to do something else. We feel the pressure to do what others say, and we're afraid of what will happen if we choose Jesus. But from this psalm it's obvious we should choose Jesus' way. He will win. He will dash all opposition in pieces like a potter's vessel. If Jesus is the king we want to be on his side and not on our boss' side.

6. How is Jesus' victorious rule an encouragement to you? How does it speak to what you are going through right now?



Positive application. For God's people the coming of the Messiah was something good, hence all the Jews in Jesus' day. They didn't fear his coming - maybe they should have! Likewise for us, this psalm should not just be a challenge but also good news. Jesus will win. He will defeat all his enemies. Make everything right. And no one can stop him. Great news.

Ideas for prayer

- Praise God for sending his king Jesus, and exalting him as Lord of heaven and earth. Pray we would see his true majesty and bow before him.
- Pray we would feel the challenge of Jesus' kingship and beware of rebelling - as well as warning those outside the church that they need to repent.
- Pray we would be encouraged by the hope of Jesus' kingdom. Pray we would live confidently in light of his coming in this hostile world.