

Theme: The Psalms are given to instruct us to live with the assurance that the Lord reigns.

I. Psalm 1 & 2: Introduction to Psalms

A. Position in Psalter

B. Lack of superscription

C. Literary links joining Psalm 1 & 2

1. Inclusio formed by אָוֶן אָוֶן

2. Perish (1:6 & 2:12) - אָוֶן אָוֶן

3. Meditate (1:2) and “plot” (2:1) - אָוֶן אָוֶן

D. Quotes on Psalm 1 & 2 as intro

1. Read together - McCann, 41

2. Message of Psalm 1 & 2 – McCann, 41

II. The Reign of the Lord in Psalm 2

A. The structure: four major parts

1. The kings of the earth rebel against God (1-3)

2. The Lord responds (4-6)

3. The Lord’s decree to His Messiah (7-9)

4. The Psalmists advice to kings (10-12)

B. The kings of the earth (1-3)

1. After Ps 1, expect peace and serenity – Why?

2. Great unrest – conspire, plot, gather together

3. They see God & His King as chains & fetters

C. The Lord’s response to the kings (4-6)

1. God is not worried - (laugh, scoff, rebuke, terrify)

2. God has installed His King – others can’t stop

D. The Lord’s declaration to Messiah (7-9)

1. Anointed One (2) – David & Christ – next week

2. Messiah (2), King (6), Son (7) – only here

3. Real focus is God’s rule

a. He responds to kings (4-5)

b. He installs Messiah (6)

c. He gives decree (7)

d. He makes promises to Messiah (8)

4. Yet, God & Messiah inseparable – next week

E. The Psalmists advice to the kings (& us!) (10-12)

1. Be wise – careful how you respond! (10)

2. Worship the Lord (11-12)

- a. Serve the Lord with fear (11)
- b. Rejoice with trembling (11)
- c. Kiss the Son (12)

The Psalms As Instruction: The Lord Reigns!

Psalm 2
October 26, 2003

III. Conclusion & Summary

- A. How do you view God, His King, His Torah?
 - 1. Are they a delight or bondage to you?
 - 2. Do you see them as path to blessing?
- B. Recognize great conflict rages around us
 - 1. Many do not want God to rule
 - 2. Our foes – numerous & mighty
 - a. Psalm 1 – man (sing.) vs. wicked (plural)
 - b. Psalm 2 – kings and rulers of earth oppose
 - 3. Do not be surprised at this conflict – laments!
- C. Be wise – refuge in Him, not from Him!
 - 1. How will you respond to these facts?
 - 2. Are you fighting against God – you will perish
 - 3. Are you looking for refuge *from* God – none exists
 - 4. Find refuge in God – and be blessed!

1 Blessed is the man
Psalm 1:1

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
Psalm 2:12

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.
Psalm 1:6

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way...
Psalm 2:12

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
Psalm 1:2

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?
Psalm 2:1

The literary links between Psalms 1 and 2 are a major clue that the two psalms are meant to be read as a literary unit.
J. Clinton McCann, Jr., *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms*, 41.

Psalms 1 and 2 together form an introduction to the Psalms. While Psalm 1 informs the reader that the whole collection is to be approached and appropriated as instruction, Psalm 2 introduces the essential content of that instruction – the LORD reigns!
J. Clinton McCann, Jr., *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms*, 41.

1 **Why** do the nations **conspire** and the peoples **plot** in vain? 2 The kings of the earth **take their stand** and the rulers **gather together** against the LORD and against his Anointed One. 3 “Let us break their **chains**,” they say, “and throw off their **fetters**.”
Psalm 2:1-3

4 The One enthroned in heaven **laughs**; the Lord **scoffs** at them. 5 Then he **rebukes** them in his anger and **terrifies** them in his wrath, saying, 6 “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”
Psalm 2:4-6

2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his **Anointed One**. 3 “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.” 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 “I have installed my **King** on Zion, my holy hill.” 7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my **Son**; today I have become your Father.”
Psalm 2:2-7

4 The **One enthroned in heaven** laughs; the **Lord** scoffs at them. 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 “**I have installed my King** on Zion, my holy hill.” 7 I will proclaim **the decree of the LORD**: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father. 8 **Ask of me, and I will make** the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.”
Psalm 2:4-8

10 **Therefore**, you kings, **be wise**; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 **Serve** the LORD with fear and **rejoice with trembling**. 12 **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
Psalm 2:10-12