

Theme: Those who walk in God's Way must embrace His Kingship, submitting to His wise, loving rule in every area of life.

I. Intro - The Arrogance of Ancient Kings

- A. Ancient kings were cruel and arrogant!
- B. I am king. I am lord. I am praiseworthy. I am important. I am magnificent. I am foremost. I am a hero. I am a warrior. I am a lion, and I am virile. - Ahurnasirpal II
- C. Ashurnasirpal, attentive prince, worshipper of the great gods, ferocious dragon, conqueror of cities and the entire highlands, king of lords, encircler / of the obstinate, crowned with splendor, fearless in battle, merciless hero, he who stirs up strife, praiseworthy king, shepherd, protection of the (four) quarters, the king whose command disintegrates mountains / and seas, the one who by his lordly conflict has brought under one authority ferocious (and) merciless kings from east to west: - Assurnasirpal II
- D. They were not suffering from low self-esteem!
- E. Is Psalm 2 just David being like this -or something else?
- F. Who is really the King? How do I respond?

II. Psalm 2 - The LORD Reigns!

- A. The structure: 4 major parts
 - 1. The kings of the earth rebel against God (1-3)
 - 2. The Lord responds to the rebellious kings (4-6)
 - 3. The Lord's decree to His Messiah/Son/King (7-9)
 - 4. Advice to kings - and us! (10-12)

B. The rebellious kings of the earth

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

- 1. A shock after Psalm 1 - why plot against blessing?
- 2. A picture of rebellion - conspire, plot, stand, gather together, break, throw off
- 3. The blessed of Psalm 1 uses all his mental energy (meditate) to understand and apply God's instruction, but here the people use all their mental energy (plot - same Hebrew word) to deny and rebel against God's instruction
- 4. The basic disposition of these people is to view God, His King, and His instruction as "chains" and "fetters" that must be broken and thrown off.

C. The Lord's response to the rebellious

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

- 1. He does not hire a PR firm or change His ways to suit them or to "get on the right side of history"!
- 2. He laughs and scoffs at these scoffers
- 3. God rebukes (v5), warns, and commands (vv10-12) the rebellious to change their ways.
- 4. God declares that His King (His Messiah-Son) is installed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

5. God's people can take comfort from the fact that though the nations rage, conspire, and plot to overthrow God's Kingdom and establish their own rule, He is Sovereign over all and is accomplishing His desire and establishing His Kingdom!

D. The Lord's declaration to His Anointed/King/Son

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Psalm 2:7-9

1. God does not inform His Anointed/King/Son - "sorry they don't want you!"
2. God gives a promise to the Anointed/King/Son - the nations belong to You! You will rule over all!
3. The kings rebelled, but the Anointed/King/Son of God rules over them, and their kingdoms belong to Him.

E. Advice for the rebellious kings

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

1. You conspired and plotted - but in broad daylight and God knew it all!
2. You declared independence from God, His King, and His Word, but He has overruled you.
3. Don't be a fool - be wise & understand the warning

4. Embrace God's King and His rule with willing submission and love (serve; rejoice; kiss)

III. Applying the Word

A. Do I see this text is addressing me?

1. Obviously, the text speaks to kings of the nations
2. But this does not mean it is not addressing me
 - a. Psalms is addressed to everyday people, not just leaders
 - b. Psalm 1 is clearly addressed to everyone, and Psalm 1 and 2 are meant to be read together
 - c. The basic issues in Psalm 2 are found in every human heart!
3. I must wrestle through the message of this Psalm and how it addresses me - not someone else!

B. How do I respond to Christ's Lordship of everything?

1. The Psalm confronts human rebellion against God
2. Our sinful nature views God, His Rule, and His Word as binding, restrictive chains to be broken
3. We all are tempted to extend great mental energy to explain away God's clear revelation to us so that we can indulge our desires
4. This the pattern of the non-religious
 - a. They attempt to live as if God does not exist
 - b. They deny the clear, irrefutable evidence in creation, themselves, and Scripture that God exists, He is holy, and we will all stand before Him.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:18–20

1. They say there is not evidence for God, but God says He has given irrefutable evidence
 2. They say they can't know if God exists, God says they can't NOT know that He exists, what He is like, and that they will stand before Him.
- c. They proclaim they are free & answerable to no one - but they will give account to God

5. This is the pattern of religious 'progressives'

- a. They conspire and plot to remake God in their image
- b. They reject God's clear revelation in Scripture, redefining the nature of God, good and evil, and the essential teachings of the faith once for all given to the saints

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. Jude 1:3–4

1. They claim to follow the faith - but have completely altered it
2. They change the Gospel into a license for sin and thereby deny Jesus Christ

3. This not a different form of Christianity - it is a completely different religion that is abominable to Jesus Christ and utterly rejects His Lordship

- c. These voices are all around us today - and increasingly among those who call themselves 'evangelical' or 'Bible believing'. We must beware and reject this.

6. This is the pattern of religious 'conservatives'

- a. Those who profess faith and embrace the Bible as God's Word can still deny Jesus' Lordship in every area of life.
- b. We can rightly stress holiness but fail to stress God's love, especially for those with whom we disagree.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. Matthew 23:23–24

1. They went even beyond the law for tithing but refused to show mercy or justice for others
 2. Jesus hated this 'religious' spirit and way of life
- c. We speak the truth and then don't live it (hypocrisy)
- Do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. Matthew 23:3
1. Many things the Pharisees said were true - but they did not practice them!
 2. They railed against and rejected others for behaviors they practiced themselves!
- d. Modern evangelicalism has failed in this area miserably, thus undermining the faith we claim to love.

7. Is the Spirit convicting me of one of these areas?
8. Is the Spirit showing me an area I have compromised to walk the way of the world, or because someone I love is walking that way?
9. Is the Spirit bringing to mind an area I have rejected the Lordship of Christ, viewing His way as a chain of repression rather than the key to freedom?

C. The Lord's Table

1. The Psalm ends with the good news - god offers forgiveness and refuge for those who turn to Him!
2. We have all failed - and we are all offered forgiveness if we will repent of our rebellion
3. Come to Christ and find refuge!

The Way: Embracing God's Rule

Psalm 2
 May 16, 2021
 Communion
 1 Timothy 1:17

Teaching keywords: Lordship; Christian life; obedience

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. and may His covenant blessings fill your life. Go forth, blessed, and be a blessing! Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17

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." 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. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." 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 2:1-12