

Bible Study on Psalm 2

Messianic Psalms – Christ is the Heart of the Psalms

These psalms reveal a great deal about God's plan of salvation for our sinful world. They also show us that Jesus knew full well the price He would pay to earn salvation for us. He had counted the cost. He knew that He would be forsaken by God (Ps. 2:1). He knew that His friends (Ps. 2:11) would abandon Him and that He would be betrayed by a friend (Ps. 41:9). It comforts us to see God's great love for us, active centuries before the birth of the Messiah and millennia before we were born. (LL)

These psalms reveal the victory of the Messiah, as well as His suffering. Jesus knew He would rise (Ps. 16:1) and reign (Ps. 100) as Priest and King over the whole world; especially His people. The nations (Ps. 2:1-3) would conspire against Him, but He would someday reign in power (Ps. 110:2) and dash those who would come against Him. On the Last Day, He will judge (Ps. 110:6) the nations and destroy the wicked (Ps. 2:12) who refused His offer of mercy. While the Jews (Matt. 22:41-46) of Jesus' day did not understand how both sets of prophecies could fit together, both were fulfilled in Jesus. The psalms present a balanced picture of Jesus, both the suffering servant and the victorious king. (LL)

It would be easy to overlook the psalmist, however, in all this. While some messianic prophecies in Psalms do speak only of Christ, several of the psalms speak first about the psalmist (Psalms 16 and 22), and then find their final and ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The pain and torment David expresses in Psalm 22 is real. David wrestles with faith and fear, just as we often do. We lose a major part of the psalm's meaning and its power for our own struggles if we forget the psalmist – his pain and the victory God promises through His anointed King. (LL)

A few psalms that fit into this category are Psalms 2, 16, 22, and 110.

Psalm 2 reveals important information about who Jesus is in relation to God the Father. This psalm also foretells Christ's supreme kingship over all nations and peoples.

Read verses 1-3.

1. Who were some people that rebelled against David?
2. Who were the main characters in the plan hatched by the enemies of Jesus?
3. How do you think people today "break God's chains" and "throw off God's fetters"?
4. Those who try to escape God's rule mistakenly think that He wants to enslave them. How does Jesus address that misbelief in John 8:31-32?
5. What is God's reaction toward those who rebel against Him and His Son? See 2:4-5

6. No earthly king could fulfill the promise of verses 7-9. Its complete fulfillment awaits the coming of Christ on the last day. In the New King James Version, verse 7b reads, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.” As believers in Christ, we are all begotten (fathered) by God by adoption into His family of faith. What is different, though, about Jesus’ “Sonship”? See John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:35, 3:22; and Acts 13:33.
7. Psalm 2:7b is also quoted in Hebrews 5:5. Read Hebrews 5:1-5. How did Jesus become our Savior and High Priest?
8. What is God telling the leaders of the world of all times?
9. Read verses 11-12.
 - a. What is being asked for in these verses?
 - b. These verses almost look like God is very temperamental. Is He? (See 2 Peter 3:8-9)
 - c. What comfort is there in the end for God’s people?

Those who plot against God’s elect incite God’s wrath. The Lord, not human beings, anointed Israel’s king and elected this nation for His plan of salvation. Ultimately, the Messiah—the Anointed One—was born from the nation of Israel. God preserved Israel so that through the offspring of one of David’s descendants, Mary, the Savior of humankind was born. Those who “take refuge in Him”—i.e., trust in Him for their salvation—are truly blessed. • Lord Jesus, despite our miserable and constant rebellion, You rescue us from sin. Lead us to embrace Your gracious rule with joyful hearts. Amen. (TLSB)

Some Answers to the above Questions:

1. David was anointed king of Judah and was thus God's "anointed one," His representative on earth and a type (or picture) of the coming Messiah. Jesus claims the title "the Anointed One" in the Luke 4 passage. He is the one to whom all messianic psalms point.

2. In the verses from Acts 4, Peter describes the fulfillment of Ps.2:1-2 as the conspiracy of Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the Jews who all united against Jesus and thus participated in His crucifixion.

3. People today "break God's chains" and "throw off God's fetters" by ignoring God's Word and by choosing lifestyles that defy God's will. Those who teach things other than the pure Word of God also break God's chains.

4. In John 8:31-32, Jesus says that His truth sets us free. All who believe in Jesus are set free from the power of sin and death. Although we were and are unable to be completely obedient to God's will, Jesus came to earth to be completely obedient in our place. He received the punishment we deserved because of our disobedience.

5. In righteous anger, God mocks and rebukes those who rebel against Him and His Son. Because God is the one, true God, He has every right to be angry at those who willfully reject Him. Those who break away from God and His rule will be judged and will receive His wrath.

6. Because Jesus is the eternal, second person of the Trinity (John 1:1), His being begotten by the Father did not occur at a specific place or time, like our conception and birth. Jesus has been both true God and God's Son forever. He did not become the Son of God at the time of His earthly birth in Bethlehem or at any other time. The Father speaks of Jesus as His Son in many places in Scripture. For instance, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary before Jesus was born (Luke 1:35); at Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:22); and at His resurrection (Acts 13:33). Hebrews 5:1-5 declares that Jesus is superior to the angels, because He is God (v. 3) and has redeemed us from our sins. Jesus is not a created being; He is God Himself.

7. Jesus became our Savior and High Priest by doing what God called Him to do, suffer and die for us. He paid the price for our sin with His life.

8. No human being need ever experience God's wrath – Jesus paid the full price for our sins. Yet some in stubborn pride refuse to receive His gift of eternal life. They insist on living the way they want to live, ignoring the friendship and peace God wants to them. They trample the blood of Christ under foot and insult God's love. They rightly deserve God's wrath. He is not capricious in being angry with them.