

## Bible Study on Psalm 2 – Leader Notes

**2:1** The nations rebel. In the ancient Near East the coronation of a new king was often the occasion for the revolt of peoples and kings who had been subject to the crown. [Our presidents get challenged often because they are more short term and the dictators have often in power a long time – Kennedy & Cuba – Bush & 911 – Obama & Trump) The newly anointed king is here pictured as ruler over an empire. (CSB)

**1.** All the nations that Saul had failed to conquer rebelled at David's rise to king continued to rebel the whole time of David's kingship. His sons also rebelled.

All of David's wars were defensive. (Leupold) – Most of USAs also were in retaliation of an attack.

**2** Religious leaders rebelled against His message and had the Gentiles kill Him.

**3.** Quotes from Leonard Sweet's book, "Soul Tsunami" on the apathy and hostility toward Christianity at this time in history.

- a. "In Sandra Loh's novel, 'Depth Takes a Holiday,' evangelism is equated with sexual abuse and body violation." PP 47-48
- b. "Islam is the world's fastest growing religion of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While Western Christianity accounted for 26.9% of the world's population in 1900 and peaked at about 30% in 1980, the Muslim population increased from 12.4% in 1900 to as much as 18% in 1980 with well over 1 billion adherents by the mid-1990's. The percentage of Christians in the world will probably decline to about 25% by 2025, the slack largely taken up by Muslims. Muslims are already poised to outnumber Jews in the United States and become the nation's second-largest faith by 2010." pp. 56-57

- c. US News & World Report, Time, Newsweek consistently choose the holiest Christian week of the year to present cover stories raising questions about what can be believed in the gospels and explore whether or not Jesus did what the Bible says he did.” P.52

New York City schools allowed Muslims in area to pray during Ramadan but allowed no language that talked about Christmas. (Ft. Wayne Newspaper)

This opposition, as all of us know, goes on still today. A successful film producer recently advised would-be writers that no movie can succeed unless its characters break at least three of the Ten Commandments! Sadder still, the young people to whom he spoke probably would have had trouble naming three commandments. (LL)

Political correctness is probably the greatest danger to Christianity. Apathy ranks right up there as well.

**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 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.

He “laughs,” He “derides” them. He has not been moved even to rise from His throne. A title is here given Him, “the Sitter in the heavens.” (Leupold)

God, in His infinite splendor, is not so far removed from creation that He is unaware of human deeds. Ever mindful of His creation, He mocks those who have the audacity to circumvent His laws and plans as Creator. Luther: “Let us laugh at raging Satan and the world (yes, even at sin and our conscience in us). (1 John 3:19-21)

**6. Because...**

- a. 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.
- b. When the angel Gabriel came to Mary before Jesus was born (Luke 1:35).
- c. At Jesus’ baptism (Luke 3:22) God gives His full approval.
- d. At His resurrection (Acts 13:33) God once more endorses Jesus.

**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 of 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.

9. In these verses...

a. *serve* (11) – Luther: To serve Christ, then, is not to put on a hood or to be preoccupied with Mosaic ceremonies. But it is rather an entirely spiritual thing, not in the way in which the monks speak of something being spiritual which takes place only in the heart. But it is a spiritual service which originates with the Spirit. For whoever speaks the words of the Spirit is rightly said to preach, teach, and speak spiritually. Thus one is also said to live spiritually who is busy with holy deeds, that is, who does what is prescribed in the Ten Commandments. So the head of a household lives spiritually when he governs his own home through faith in the Son of God. Truly, spiritual obedience is to do through faith in the Son of God what you are ordered to do by God’s command. There you have what it means to serve this King. It is not to enter a monastery, as the monks are wont to do, nor to choose these deeds or those, but to behold this King, to listen to Him, and afterwards to do what you have heard.

b. *Rejoice...trembling* (11) – *rejoice*. Hail the Lord as King with joy. (CSB)

*trembling*. Awe and reverence. – No human being need ever experience God’s wrath (CSB)

c. *Kiss*. As a sign of submission. Submission to an Assyrian king was expressed by kissing his feet. (CSB)

The kiss goes back to the traditional greeting still used today in the Mid-East. Only friends and allies could get close enough to a great king to greet him in this way. Ally yourself with this king! David is saying. (LL)

Second Peter 3:9-10 states, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.”