

Psalm 2

I. God and the enemies (1-6)

A. The Enemies: (1-3)

1. They do: (1-2)

a They rebel (1-2b)

1) They plot (1)

- a) Why are the nations restless (1a)
- b) and the peoples plotting in vain? (1b)

2) They rebel (2)

- a) The Kings of the land take their stand (2a)
- b) and the ruling conspire together (2b)

Military metaphors, taking a stand or taking up battle positions and holding a counsel of war
An assembly of the wicked and an offering of counsel reminiscent of Psa. 1:1

b Against Yahweh and against His anointed one (2c)

“enemies” is a theme in Psalms

The OT theme of rulers of surrounding nations who think they are gods and set themselves up against the true God

“anointed/Messiah/Kingship” is a theme in Psalms,

cf. 1 Sam. 10:1, 16:3, 1 Kgs 1:39 for the anointing of Israelite king.

“Here we see the Israelite king as vice-regent, the representative of God on earth – a king, yet not autonomous, but very much under divine law.” Provan, p. 130.

2. They say: (3)

a Let us tear apart their bonds (3a)

b And let us throw their ropes from us (3b)

Let us break their control," "Let us be our own bosses"

We are all tempted to do this - to say "not your will, but mine"

We all have the option to be building our own kingdom - trying to rule our own little world as a god

Or we can be about building God's Kingdom

B. God (4-6)

1. He does: (4-5)

a He scoffs at their rebellion (4)

1) The One sitting in the heavens laughs, (4a)

2) the Lord mocks against them (4b)

The nations' rebellion is ridiculous

How could they ever expect any hope of success?

How many tanks, planes, and nuclear missiles would it take to defeat the Lord who created everything?

How could the creature defeat the creator?

The whole idea is just stupid

b He threatens/punishes them (5)

1) Then He will speak to them in His wrath (5a)

“God’s judgment/wrath” and “God’s poetic justice” is a theme in Psalms

2) and in His burning anger He will terrify them (5b)

2. He says: (6)
 - a I have installed my King upon Zion (6a)
 - cf. v. 2 for “King”
 - “Zion/Temple” as God’s dwelling place is a theme in Psalms
 - b [I have established him on] my Holy Mountain (6b)
 - This is God’s response to the words of the enemies in v. 3
 - They asserted their autonomy, but God reaffirms His Sovereignty and the rule of His chosen King

II. The King and the enemies (7-12)

A. God’s prescription, regulation (7-9)

1. Intro formula: (7a-b)
 - a Let me recount the prescription/regulation of Yahweh (7a)
 - b He said unto me...(7b)
2. The prescription/regulation which God said: (7c-9)
 - a You are my chosen representative (7c-d)
 - 1) You are my son, (7c)
 - Themes of “Kingship” and “Corporate solidarity” in the Psalms
 - 2) today I fathered you/have become your father (7d)
 - This language affirms that in some way the king can be thought of as divine yet it is short of the language of absolute deification
 - b I will give you the world as your inheritance (8)
 - 1) Ask from me and I will give the nations as your inheritance (8a)
 - 2) The extremities of the earth as your possession (8b)
 - Because God rules/owns the whole earth, this is the same inheritance passed to His ‘son’.
 - c You will defeat them (9a-b)
 - 1) You will break them with a staff of iron, (9a)
 - 2) like a vessel of a potter you will shatter them (9b)
 - “But before he can rule the earth, the son must first break all opposition with his ‘rod of iron’, smashing them as easily as one breaks a piece of pottery. It is very much the biblical order of things that there can be no peace without justice, and that justice requires the use of force. The king must conquer the wicked before he can rule” – cf. Isa. 11:1-9; Rev. 19:11-21, Provan p. 130

B. The enemies response: [very good advice to enemies] (10-12)

1. Repent and serve Yahweh (10-11)
 - a Repent (10)
 - 1) And now kings be attentive, prudent (10a)
 - 2) Be corrected, chastened rulers of the earth (10b)
 - b Serve Yahweh (11)
 - 1) Serve Yahweh with fear (11a)
 - 2) And shout in exultation with trembling (11b)
2. Serve the Son or you will perish (12)
 - a Kiss or perish (12a-b)
 - 1) Kiss the Son (12a)
 - Kissing the feet is a well-known act of self-humiliation and homage
 - 2) Lest he will be angry and you will perish in the way (12b)
 - “Way” is a theme in Psalms, cf. esp. Psa. 1

- b Wrath or refuge (12c-d)
 - 1) Because his wrath will burn quickly, easily (12c)
 - 2) Blessed are all of the ones taking refuge in Him (12d)
 - cf. Psa. 1:1 forming an inclusion around the first 2 Psalms, marking them as a unity
 - “blessing, prosperity” is a theme in Psalms
 - “refuge” is a theme in Psalms