

THE KING'S GLORY (Ps. 2)

The Psalms are the songs of God's people. Originally written for the Israelites and sung in their worship of Jehovah, as Christians, we also hold them in the highest regard as God's Holy Word.

The psalmists composed their psalms in 'real-life' circumstances, and in the recognition that God is with them and will sustain them. ... They were hymns with meaning and substance. They weren't silly sentimental songs, but great works of praise to God in expectation of His work among them.

The Messianic Psalms contain prophecies relating to the Messiah. The Lord Jesus used them to teach the two disciples on the road to Damascus (Lk. 24:27), and when He later met with the eleven in the Upper Room, after His resurrection, **Lk. 24:44** *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

There are sixteen Messianic Psalms. Some in almost their totality apply to Jesus (e.g. Ps. 22). Some use a selection of verses (e.g. Ps. 40:6-10), while some simply include a verse or a line (e.g. **Ps. 2:7** *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*)

They are described as Messianic Psalms because they are quoted in the New Testament relating to Jesus, the Messiah. There are three further psalms which are not directly quoted in the New Testament but their association with the Messiah is beyond dispute. These are Psalm 24 which speaks of Him as the King of Glory, v.7 ... Psalm 72 relates to His Millennial Reign ... and Psalm 89 refers to the Davidic Covenant fulfilled in the Messiah. ... Let's turn to Psalm 2 which is neatly divided into four sections consisting of three verses each ... twelve verses in total.

The first section refers to **REBELLION**, **Ps. 2:1** *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine [*plot*], [*conspire*] a vain thing? ... 'emptiness', 'with no substance', i.e. that they can overthrow the will and plan of God* **2** *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,* **3** *Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. ... They are raging and 'speaking out' against the LORD, and against his anointed [*Messiah*]. They are determined in their opposition 'to break asunder' the band of God, and to cast them away ...* **Lk. 19:14** *We will not have this man to reign over us. ... They are intent on abandoning the ways and laws of God in favour of following their own desires and godless ambitions. ... No more of God's restraints for we are determined to cast them all aside! ...*

This is the passage Peter quoted from in Jerusalem after Pentecost when he was interrogated by the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees (Acts 4:1), he quoted to them from Ps. 2, **Acts 4:25** Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? **26** The kings of the earth stood up [*i.e. a reference to the Gentiles*], and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord [*i.e. a reference to the Jewish religious elite*], and against his Christ [*i.e. a reference to the nation of Israel*]. ... And he explained to them their guilt ... **27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast *anointed*, both *Herod*, and *Pontius Pilate*, with the *Gentiles*, and the *people of Israel*, were gathered together, **28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. ... As Paul referred to, in his epistle to the Thessalonians, **II Thess. 2:7** the mystery of iniquity doth already work. ...

The mystery of iniquity fuelled them in their opposition to the Lord ... but notice God is not deterred, for we see His **REPLY**, **Ps. 2:4** He that sitteth [*dwells, abides*] in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision [*i.e. He will mock them*]. **5** Then shall he *speak* unto them in his wrath, and *vex* [*disturb, alarm, terrify*] them in his sore displeasure [*He terrifies them in His fury*]. **6** Yet have I set [*installed*] my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ... Nations make a dreadful mistake when they mock God ... and when they promote their agendas to decry His ways, but God warns them they won't get away with it for when He speaks there will be no escape from His wrath. They will cry for the rocks to fall on them and for the sea and the ocean to overwhelm them ... but there will be nowhere to hide when God's judgment is poured out upon them.

They could not stop His Son entering this world, and they could not stop His Son achieving the Father's plan on the cross, and neither will they be able to stop the climax of it all when His prophecy will be fulfilled, **6** Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. God's program cannot be disrupted for when He sets His mind to do something, nothing can stop Him ... and He *will* appoint His Son as King on the holy hill of Mount Zion.

And from the holy hill of Zion, - the temple mount in Jerusalem, - He gives us the future **REVELATION** of His Son, **Ps. 2:7** I will declare [*proclaim*] the decree [*statute, ordinance*]: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. **8** Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. **9** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Here is the eternal Sonship of Christ, - Jesus Christ is eternally God, and eternally He is the Son of God, God the Son, - not a lesser God, but one with God in all His

glory ... **Ps. 2:7** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee ... The word 'day' is the eternal day, where there is neither the sun nor the moon. That is how Paul preached from this verse on the Sabbath to the Jews in the synagogue at Antioch, **Acts 13:29** And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. **30** But God raised him from the dead: **31** And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. **32** And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, **33** God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in *the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee*. ... And it is also how the writer to the Hebrews taught, **Heb. 5:5** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

... **Ps. 2:8** Ask of me, - the Father is inviting the Son to pray in the Father's will ... and *here* is the Father's will ... I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ... When Christ comes to reign, He will not only reign over Jerusalem and Israel, but He will reign over it all the nations, everywhere in the world ... the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. **9** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ... He will reign as the undisputed King, - notice the *future* tense. This is a promise to be fulfilled when He returns to this earth. It is not symbolic or allegorical or figurative, but *literal* for God is clearly saying in this psalm what He means, and He means exactly what He says. There is no hidden meaning, - God does not speak like that to His people. He speaks clearly, as John also believed when he wrote, **Rev. 5:10** *[Thou]* hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rebellion, Reply, Revelation ... RECONCILIATION, Ps. 2:10 Be wise now therefore *[understand this]*, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. **11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Those in positions of power are responsible before God, whether they accept it or not, **Rom. 13:1** for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God ... **3** For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. ... **4** For he is the minister *[δούκωνος, servant]* of God to thee for good. ... He calls the ungodly governments and rulers to be reconciled to Him ... He gives them the opportunity, **Ps. 2:11** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ... No longer set yourselves against Him, to break His bands asunder and cast Him away ... He gives them *all*, - without any 'favouritism', - the opportunity to repent ... He is willing to forgive their sin and rebellion if they would turn to Him, as Peter wrote, **II Peter 3:9** The Lord ... is

longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

He calls on the ungodly to repent, **Ps. 2:12** *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. ... Bow before Him, - He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is none other like Him. ... Receive Him, lest he be angry, and ye perish.*

And here is the eternal promise for those who turn to Him, **Ps. 4:12** *Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.* ... That is the declaration from Heaven when sinners trust in the Son of God. ... There is no other way of receiving blessing from God, but through Christ.

The blessing comes from Him alone, and this is illustrated in the Hebrew word ‘*esher*’ (Greek, μακάριος). In many of our English versions “**Blessed are**” suggests there is something we need to do to be blessed by God. That is not correct though for God’s blessing does not begin with us, since there is nothing we can do to either deserve or earn it.

The psalmist uses the word which is translated ‘Blessed’ (a ‘particle interjection’) to describe something which already is. In other words, it means those whose trust is in God are *already* blessed, - you don’t have to do anything to *become* blessed, because being in Christ, you are *already* blessed. ... In the same way as you don’t have to do anything to be born ... by being a Christian, you are *already* blessed in the Lord Jesus Christ. ... He is your King (v.6), your Lord and your Master. You are reigning and *will* reign with Him (v.8). You are wise, with His wisdom (v.10). You are His servant, with a joy and God-given reverence for His Name (v.11). You have bowed the knee before Him in repentance and worship ... and you will not perish for He has lifted you out of the path to destruction (v.12). And because of all He has done for you, you are *blessed*, and a more precise translation of the final Hebrew words in v.12 is, *How blessed are all whose refuge is in Him.*

And that is where we are ... We are *blessed* because He is our refuge, our fortress, our sanctuary, our security, in Whom we are eternally secure for now and for the ages to come. And *that* is the message of this first of the Messianic Psalms. Amen.