

The Kingdom Hope in Psalms

Psalm 2

The Messiah's Triumph & Kingdom

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- 1 *Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?*
- 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 bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”*

The Second Psalm is entirely prophetic of the Messiah's triumph and kingdom. The subject of the first three verses is the present age. We know this from Acts 4:23-31. However, even this is viewed from the perspective of the coming kingdom. During the present age the kings and rulers of the earth, including the religious leaders of the world, actively oppose the rule of God and His Messiah (“His Anointed”). They conspire together against Him. Their counsel and purpose is to “cast away their cords,” and “break their bonds in pieces,” that is, to nullify His righteous precepts and to free themselves from any submission to the will of God and His Messiah. That is the lust of this evil world. During the present age, God permits this rebellion. But He will not permit it forever. It will come to an abrupt and sudden halt. The next three verses tell us this and they also tell us exactly when it will stop.

- 4 *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.*
- 5 *Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:*
- 6 *“Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”*

In the Day of Christ, the nations and peoples who have rebelled against the Lord and against His Messiah will be held in derision and He will speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His displeasure. These are expressions of judgment. We can be very exact about when this judgment will take place.

According to Verse 6, it will happen when the King is enthroned on His holy hill of Zion in the city of Jerusalem. When will this happen? According to Paul, He “will judge the living and the dead at His **appearing** and His **kingdom**” (2

Timothy 4:1). At that time “He will hold them in derision and speak to them in His wrath.” Then they will perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Compare this with Isaiah 24.

21 *It shall come to pass in that day
That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones,
And on the earth the kings of the earth.*

22 *They will be gathered together,
As prisoners are gathered in the pit,
And will be shut up in the prison;
After many days they will be punished.*

23 *Then the moon will be disgraced
And the sun ashamed;
**For the LORD of hosts will reign
On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
And before His elders, gloriously.***

The prophecies of the second coming of Christ uniformly contain this teaching, namely, that Christ is coming to reign as king over this earth, and His throne (the seat of His government) will be on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. This truth is repeated many times in Scripture.

7 *“I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.*

8 *Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

9 *You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”*

Verse 7 is quoted in Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5 where Paul uses this prophecy of the kingdom hope as an encouragement to the Hebrew Christians to persevere in the faith. Verse 8 tells us that Jesus is the Heir of the nations and of the ends of the earth. This is in harmony with Isaiah 65.

8 *Thus says the LORD:
“As the new wine is found in the cluster,
And one says, ‘Do not destroy it,
For a blessing is in it,’
So will I do for My servants’ sake,
That I may not destroy them all.
9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,*

*And from Judah an Heir of My mountains;
My Elect shall inherit it,
And My servants shall dwell there.”
10 Sharon shall be a fold of flocks,
And the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down,
For My people who have sought Me.*

To interpret this passage correctly, we need to pay careful attention to the distinction between singular and plural terms. God makes a promise in Verse 8 that He will do something for His servants' (plural) sake so that they will not be destroyed along with the wicked. Verse 9 tells us that what He will do is to “*bring forth from Judah an Heir (singular) of My mountains.*” Our Lord sprang forth from the tribe of Judah, and it is evident that He is the Heir. He is called “*the Heir*” in the Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers in Luke 20:14. Verse 9 (of Isaiah 65) goes on to say, “*My Elect (plural) shall inherit it and My servants (plural) shall dwell there.*” His “*Elect*” refers to the chosen (elect) nation of Israel who remain faithful to Him through the true Heir. His “*servants*” refers to all who join themselves to Him in faith. Thus the Scriptures teach us that Jesus is the true Heir of the Mountains of Israel, of the nations and of the ends of the earth. As His servants, we will dwell there (in the earth) as “*joint heirs*” with Him for eternity in His Kingdom that will never pass away.

*16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
17 and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”
Romans 8*

There is a textual variant in Verse 9 (of Psalm 2). The Masoretic text and the Targum have “*break.*” The Septuagint and the Syriac have “*rule.*” This verse is quoted in Revelation 2:27 and 19:15 where the Apostle John uses the Septuagint reading. In any case, the quotation of this verse in the Apocalypse fixes the time of its fulfillment without any controversy as the second coming of Christ at which time He will commence His rule over the nations of the earth.

*10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

Verse 10 returns to the present time with an exhortation and warning to the rulers and judges of the earth. They are commanded to cease their rebellion against the Lord and against His Anointed. They are exhorted to “serve Him,” and to “kiss Him” (in reverence and submission as to a Sovereign). The alternative is that they will perish in the day of His wrath.