

The Psalms Prepare for the Messiah
The Victory of the Coming One
Psalm 2
Sermon Outline

Introduction: There is a jarring dissonance between the songs we sing at Christmas and Psalm 2:2-3. What do we make of the dissonance, how are we implicated in it, and what should we do about it?

I) The world is deeply hostile to God

A) Evidence of the hostility

1) In Israel's history

2) In Jesus' life

B) Hostility in our own time

1) Overt

2) More subtle in the West

3) In our own lives

II) The hostility is absurd and foolish

v. 1: Why do the nations rage?!

A) Reasons for the absurdity: vv. 4-9

1) God's power

Nations rage... God sits and laughs

2) God's plan

v. 6: As for me, I have set up my King

v. 7: I will make the nations your heritage

v. 9: You shall break them with a rod of iron

B) Brutal, disturbing plan?

1) More than one way to annihilate the opposition

2) The M. O. of the Anointed One

III) What should we do?

Take refuge in him (*v. 12*)

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) How do you account for the welcoming songs of Advent (“Joy to the world...Let every heart prepare him room...”) and the unwelcoming song of Psalm 2:1-3? Which song has greater voice in our day? Why?
- 2) According to Psalm 2, resisting God and resisting his Anointed One (whom we now know to be Jesus) are the same action. How does resistance to Jesus take shape in our time? In your own life?
- 3) Reflect upon the following: “We won’t understand Christmas until we see it against the backdrop of hostility to God. The reason NYC is not full of believers is that there is a terrible sickness at work in us, a deep foolishness in the human heart. /we are, by some terrible deformity of soul, allergic to God. We break out in hives when he gets too close.”
- 4) Vv. 4-9 point out why it is absurd to conspire against God and his anointed. There are at least two answers—one of which has to do with his power and the other with his plan. What do we learn of his power in the text? How is it described? What do we learn of his plan?
- 5) What difficulties do you have, if any, with (i) God ‘laughing’ and ‘holding in derision’ those who resist him, with (ii) the Son conquering the ‘ends of the earth’, and with (iii) the Son ‘dashing his enemies to pieces with a rod of iron’? Why these difficulties.
- 6) Reflect on the following: “There are at least two ways of annihilating one’s enemies. One is to wipe them out. The other is to make them willing allies. God has chosen, for the moment, the latter route.”
- 7) What has God done through Jesus to win our hearts? How can knowing this help you share your faith more effectively this Christmas?
- 8) In commenting on the word of blessing at the very end of Psalm 2, Derek Kidner writes, “What fear and pride interpret as bondage (v. 3) is in fact security and bliss. And there is no refuge *from* him: only *in* him.” (*Psalms 1-72—An Introduction and Commentary*: InterVarsity Press). Turn Kidner’s reflection into a prayer.