

## “THE SECOND PSALM”

### INTRODUCTION

- A. **Acts 13:32-33** *“We declare to you glad tidings — that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’”*

A numerical reference used to cite Old Testament Scripture is unique. From Paul’s citation of *“the second Psalm”* the reader understands that at least some semblance of the present order in the book of Psalms was extant by the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century.

- B. **Acts 4:25** *“They raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?’”*

Peter identifies the writer of our Psalm as David, even though he is not named in the original text.

- C. **2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 25:26** *“Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, indeed are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?”*

A complete view of inspiration is lacking without cross-referencing Scripture to Scripture. In this case, who penned the Psalm or how long the Psalms have been ordered as they presently are may not be terribly consequential, but it merely illustrates how knowledge will remain incomplete until we examine the entirety of God’s word.

### I. “WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE?”

- A. **Psalms 2:1-3** *“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against*

*Jehovah and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.'"*

This text proves to be highly messianic in nature when its fulfillment is cited in the next Covenant.

**B. Acts 4:1-3** *"Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening."*

**17-18** *"Let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.' So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."*

**23-30** *"And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: "Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ." For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together **to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.***

*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.'"*

After the apostles were arrested and threatened by the authorities for preaching the resurrection, they prayed to the Lord, quoting Psalm 2,

acknowledging the fulfillment of prophecy in that Herod, Pilate, the gentiles, and Israelites were allied in carrying out the execution of God's Son.

- C. **Luke 22:66-23:12** *"As soon as it was day, the **elders** of the people, both **chief priests** and **scribes**, **came together** and led Him into their council, saying, 'If You are the Christ, tell us.' But He said to them, 'If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.' Then they all said, 'Are You then the Son of God?' So He said to them, 'You rightly say that I am.' And they said, 'What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.' Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to **Pilate**. And they began to accuse Him, saying, 'We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.' Then Pilate asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' He answered him and said, 'It is as you say.' So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no fault in this Man.' But they were the more fierce, saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.' When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to **Herod**, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day **Pilate and Herod became friends** with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other."*

The elders, chief priests and scribes, of Israel worked against the Christ, as did the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and the Idumean proselyte Herod who

was tetrarch of Galilee under Roman rule. Literally, Jews, sorta Jews, and Gentiles conspired to bring about the death of Jesus.

- D. **Matthew 2:16** *“Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under.”*

Since He was born, Christ’s life was the target of those in power. That trend continued through His ministry.

- E. **Isaiah 55:10-11** *“As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*

As Peter indicated, that rulers conspired against Christ ultimately resulted in them accomplishing what God’s *“purpose determined before to be done”* (Acts 4:28). God’s word does not return to Him void! In contrast to God’s word, however, *“the people plot vain things”*.

- F. **Acts 2:22-23** *“Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by **the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.”*

God always knew what would transpire concerning the Messiah.

## II. “HE WHO SITS IN THE HEAVENS SHALL LAUGH”

- A. **Psalms 2:4-5** *“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; Jehovah shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure.”*

God, in whose image we are formed, knows how to laugh. This isn't amusement, however, but scorn, as He derides those who foolishly think they can overthrow His purpose.

- B.** **Psalms 59:1-8** *"To the Chief Musician. Set to 'Do Not Destroy.' A Michtam of David when Saul sent men, and they watched the house in order to kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, And save me from bloodthirsty men. For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Jehovah. They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold! You therefore, O Jehovah God of hosts, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. At evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. Indeed, they belch with their mouth; Swords are in their lips; For they say, 'Who hears?' But You, O Jehovah, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision."*
- Psalm 37:12-13** *"The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming."*

David was similarly the target of a murderous plot enacted by those in power. He knew God laughed at His enemies.

- C.** **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:6** *"It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you."*

He considers it right to "trouble" people who cause trouble.

### III. "I HAVE SET MY KING ON MY HOLY HILL OF ZION"

- A.** **Psalm 2:6** *"Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."*

"Zion" is one of several names by which Jerusalem has been known. There the kingdom would begin.

- B.** **Isaiah 2:2-3** *"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be*

*exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

Isaiah likewise prophesied Zion/Jerusalem as the location of God's house being established, and the location from which the new law would emanate, as well as where all nations would go.

- C. **Luke 24:46-47** *"Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

Jesus told the apostles they would begin preaching His gospel from Jerusalem.

#### IV. "YOU ARE MY SON"

- A. **Psalms 2:7** *"I will declare the decree: Jehovah has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"*

This is the only Psalm identifying the Messiah as God's Son.

- B. **Matthew 3:16-17** *"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"*

**Matthew 17:1-5** *"Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'*

*While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'"*

More than once in His earthly life, Jesus was affirmed by God directly and verbally, "You are My Son"!

- C. **Hebrews 1:5** *"For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'? And again: 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son'?"*

The verse is quoted to emphasize Christ's supremacy over the angels.

- D. **Hebrews 5:5** *"Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"*

It is quoted again to prove the legitimacy of His priesthood.

- E. **Acts 13:32-33** *"We declare to you glad tidings — that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'"*

Paul applied the prophecy to the Lord's resurrection.

- F. **Romans 1:3-4** *"Jesus Christ our Lord... was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*

Rising from the dead proves Jesus to be God's Son. Anyone can start a religion and die for it, but only the Son of God could afterward walk out of the tomb.

## V. "YOU SHALL BREAK THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON"

- A. **Psalms 2:8-9** *"Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."*

The Anointed, the Son of God, is presented as a ruler not to be contended with.

- B. Daniel 2:44** *“In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”*

The unbreakable kingdom, which would actually transcend all other kingdoms, was predicted to begin during the days of the Roman kings, which is when the church began.

- C. Revelation 12:5** *“She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.”*

**Revelation 19:15** *“Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”*

Jesus rules the nations with a rod of iron.

- D. Revelation 2:26-27** *“He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations — ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ — as I also have received from My Father.”*

Jesus, about whom the Psalm is written, extends its application to Christians who overcome tribulation.

- E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:11-13** *“This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”*

Faithful Christians look forward to reigning with Jesus.

## **VI. “KISS THE SON”**

- A. Psalm 2:10-12** *“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve Jehovah with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 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."*

In view of the Messiah's greatness, we should kiss Him!

- B.** **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:18** *"I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

It was standard practice for idolaters to kiss the false gods they worshiped.

Instead, it is Jesus who deserves that adoration.

- C.** **John 5:23** *"All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."*

The Son deserves the same honor as the Father.

- D.** **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:20-21** *"He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."*

Our faith and hope should be firmly placed in God through belief in Jesus.