

2/4/24 “The Blessing of Submitting to Christ the King” (Psalm 2)

Background:

- The psalter is not randomly ordered.
- Ps 1–2 form the introduction; Ps 146–150 are the praise conclusion.
- There is purposeful ordering and grouping in various sections.
- To understand the Psalter, you need to understand the introduction: Ps 1&2 form a doorway into the book.

[2:1-3] No superscription.

Why this is significant:

Inclusio: “Blessed” (1:1 and 2:12)

Ps 1 tells us one way to be truly happy: [Ps 1:1-2]

Ps 2 tells us another way to be truly happy: [Ps 2:12]

Four stanzas:

1–3 The nations speak

4–6 God speaks

7–9 The king speaks

10–12 The psalmist speaks

[2:1-3]

-“plot” is the same word as “meditates” in Ps 1

The nations speak: they see submission to God’s chosen king as bondage!

The modern agenda: freedom from God and his commands

A wrong definition of freedom.

-American definition:

-True freedom is:

[2:4-6]

God speaks

Why “king” is capitalized in most translations:

[2 Samuel 7:12-16] [Ps 89:20, 26-28]

[2:7-9]

The king speaks

Every Davidic king was considered God’s adopted son, God’s representative on earth. [Adam—**Luke 3:38**; Israel—**Exodus 4:22**; angels—**Job 38:7**] They represent God. So does the Davidic king—**2 Samuel 7:12-13**

The NT writers understood Jesus to be the Davidic king [**Heb 1:1-2, 5**]

But here’s the problem: [**Mat 2:1-4**]

[2:10-12]

The psalmist speaks

[2:12] Submitting (kiss) to the anointed one (Messiah).

[**Rom 2:16**] [**Rev 19:11-16**]

Taking refuge in him=coming under his leadership.

Conclusion:

[**Ps 34:8**]

[Mark 1:11]

Where are you holding out on God?

The Biblical Poet's Toolbox

-Inclusio: Similar material at the beginning and ending of a section, making a frame or envelope around the section.

Example: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth" is the beginning and ending of Psalm 8.

-Merism: Contrasting words are used to express completeness or totality.

Example: "In his hand are the depths of the earth,

And the mountain peaks belong to him. [*everything on the vertical axis*]

The sea is his, for he made it,

And his hands formed the dry land." [*everything on the horizontal axis*]

(Ps 95:4–5)

-Parallelism: Two lines, usually about the same length, where the first line says something and the second line says something that is related. (Sometimes three lines are parallel.)

Example of **Affirming parallelism** (the second line says something similar):

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord

And on his law he meditates day and night." (Ps 1:2)

Example of **Opposing parallelism** (the second line says something opposite):

"Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness will surround him." (Ps

32:10)