

God's Response to the Rage against Jesus' Leadership (Ps 2:6)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Psalm 2, King David prophesied that world leaders would oppose the leadership of Jesus, causing a global crisis that would reach its pinnacle in the generation of Jesus' return.
- B. Psalm 2 has four parts:
 1. ***The kings' opposition***: seeking to remove the influence of the Word from society (2:1-3)
 2. ***The Father's response***: exalting Jesus as King and confronting rebellion against Jesus (2:4-6)
 3. ***Jesus' response***: interceding in agreement with the Father's decrees (2:7-9)
 4. ***David's exhortation***: calling people to serve God in the fear of the Lord and joy (2:10-12)

II. THE KINGS' FIERCE OPPOSITION TO JESUS AND HIS LEADERSHIP (2:1-3)

- A. David prophesied that the nations would rise up in anger against Jesus' leadership (2:1-3), seeking to remove the influence of His Word and leadership from society and the nations (2:3). Many rulers in society—economic, educational, military, media, etc.—will resist Jesus.

¹Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? ²The 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.” (Ps. 2:1-3)

- B. These leaders will oppose the truth about Jesus, His definitions of salvation, love, purity, and justice, and His purpose for Israel. They see God's Word in a negative light, as if it were *bonds* enslaving them and hindering human potential and as *cords* binding them to His will and ways.

III. THE FATHER'S RESPONSE: HIS DETERMINATION TO EXALT JESUS (2:4-6)

- A. The Father's response to the rebellious kings is to declare His purposes to magnify Jesus as King over the nations from Jerusalem (v. 6) and to distress the kings with judgment (v. 5). Jesus was enthroned in heaven at the resurrection and will be enthroned in Jerusalem when He returns.

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...⁵He 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.” (Ps. 2:4-6)

- B. The Father's message includes openly demonstrating Jesus' power as King and distressing the leaders of society who are permanently settled in their rage against Jesus and His truth.

²⁸“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh [nations]...³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth...³¹before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³²...in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance...among the remnant ...” (Joel 2:28-32)

- C. After Jesus returns, He will rule all nations in the millennial kingdom.

¹⁷At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)

- D. The battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political, and military battle for the control of Jerusalem. It is one of the most significant battlefronts in the spirit today, ending when Jesus returns.
²I will gather all...nations to battle against Jerusalem...³Then the Lord will go forth [second coming] and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. (Zech. 14:2-3)
- E. Even now we see the early stages of the battle of Jerusalem as hostility grows against Israel. So even now Gentile believers have a significant role in this spiritual battle and must understand it.
- F. Scripture calls the Church to stand with God's purposes for Israel (Isa. 40:1-2; 62:11; Jer. 31:7-10; Joel 3:14; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Mt. 25:31-46; Rom. 11:11, 20-22; Rev. 12:13-17). I believe it will be a ***litmus test*** of obedience. The highest issue in serving God's purpose for Israel is ***obeying Jesus' sovereign leadership***. We love Him; thus, we want to do what He does and love what He loves.
- G. Satan wants to exterminate the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah. John uses a prophetic picture of Israel as a woman being attacked by Satan as a dragon; God will protect her from total annihilation (Rev. 12:13-17; cf. Zech. 13:8-9).
- H. Half of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity (Zech. 14:2). About 600,000 Jews currently live in Jerusalem; thus, as many as 300,000 Jewish people may be deported in the coming crisis. The city shall temporarily be taken, creating the context in which Jesus personally delivers Israel.
²“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off.” (Zech. 14:2)
- I. God will force all to decide to stand for or against Israel. He calls the Church to stand with Israel (Isa. 40:1-2; 62:11; Jer. 31:7-10; Joel 3:14; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Mt. 25:31-46; Rom. 11:11, 20-22; Rev. 12:13-17) in their coming persecution (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7).
³In that day...I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples... (Zech. 12:3)
²I will gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [Jerusalem]; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land...¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:2, 11-14)
- J. The Lord calls the Church to make bold, prophetic proclamations to comfort Jerusalem (Isa. 40).
¹“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. ²“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...” (Isa. 40:1-2)
- K. The Church must take a stand to boldly pray, declare, and sing the message of God's purposes for Israel so that all the nations hear it clearly (Jer. 31:7-10).
⁷Thus says the Lord: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!’...¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’” (Jer. 31:7-10)