

The End-Time Conflict against Jesus' Leadership (Ps. 2)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Psalm 2, King David prophesied of the kings of the earth being in fierce opposition against the leadership of Jesus, the ultimate Son of David. This conflict reaches its pinnacle in the end times.
- B. Psalm 2 has four parts:
 - 1. The kings' fierce opposition to Jesus' leadership—their angry rebellion (Ps. 2:1-3)
 - 2. The Father's response—a message of to the rebellious kings (Ps. 2:4-6)
 - 3. Jesus' response to the Father's message—intercession (Ps. 2:7-9)
 - 4. David warned the leaders of the nations—to obey the Lord (Ps. 2:10-12)
- C. The forerunner ministry includes embracing the Father's message (Ps. 2:4-6) and Jesus' intercession (Ps. 2:7-9). *Both proclamation and prayer prepare the way of the Lord.*

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

- A. David prophesied that the nations would rise up in anger against Jesus' leadership (v. 2). Especially His standards of morality (v. 3) and His purpose related Jesus and Jerusalem (v. 2, 6).
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. ***Against the LORD and His Christ:*** The kings, rulers, and people will specifically plot against the LORD (the Father) and His anointed One (Jesus), to cast off God's ways and to stand against His decree that Jesus, as the son of David, rule all the nations from Jerusalem.
- C. ***Break Their bonds and cast away Their cords:*** The plan against God will be focused on casting away His Word (v. 3) from society. These people will see God's Word in a negative light, as if it were “bonds” that enslave them and “cords” that bind them to His morality and ways.

III. PART 2: THE FATHER'S RESPONSE—A MESSAGE OF TO THE KINGS (PS. 2:4-6)

- A. David makes known the Father's message to the hostile kings of the earth—He will distress the rebellious leader with His judgments (v. 5) and will magnify Jesus' leadership as His King over all nations from Jerusalem (v. 6, 8). The Father's response includes laughing to mock the kings (v. 4a), holding them in derision (v. 4b), speaking to them (v. 5a), distressing them (v. 5b) and declaring His victorious purposes in magnifying Jesus as King in Jerusalem (v. 6).

4He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. 5Then 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 [Jerusalem].” (Ps. 2:4-6)

- B. The Father’s actions are made known to give boldness to His people and to encourage faith instead of fear. God’s people are not to draw back in intimidation before the kings of the earth.
- C. The Lord sits on His throne in sovereign power and laughs with confidence at the plans of the kings of the earth to stop His purposes and people.
- D. The Father will hold these leaders in derision or view them with scorn and contempt. He will not tolerate their deeds but will manifest His anger. He will not appease them in any way but wants them to know about His anger toward them. The Lord will speak to them in His wrath through His prophetic messengers.
- E. The Father’s primary message is, “*I have set My king on My hill*” (v. 6). He proclaimed His delight in Jesus’ enthronement as king over all. He set Jesus on His throne in two installments. First, He was enthroned in heaven at the Father’s right hand at the resurrection (Eph. 1:20-22). Second, He will be enthroned on earth in Jerusalem at the second coming (Jer. 3:17).

IV. PART 3: JESUS’ RESPONSE TO THE FATHER’S MESSAGE—INTERCESSION (PS. 2:7-9)

- A. David overheard a Trinitarian dialogue in which the Father exhorted Jesus to pray for the nations as His inheritance. In Psalm 2:7, David records one of the most important statements about how Jesus will rule the nations. He will do this by making decrees that the Father gave Him.
7“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 8Ask of Me [the Father], and I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9You shall break them with a rod of iron...” (Ps. 2:7-9)
- B. Jesus declares the Father’s decrees (v. 7a) —we see Jesus the great intercessor praying for the full release of His promised dominion over all nations to be manifested openly. Jesus’ responds to the Father’s message (v. 5-6) and the global rebellion (v. 3) with intercession. This gives us insight into how much He prioritizes the call to His people to partner with Him in prayer.
7 “...will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night...8He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (Lk. 18:7-8; NAS)
- C. God answered Cornelius’ weak prayer, releasing a great breakthrough of the Spirit (Acts 10).
1There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion...2a devout man and one who feared God...who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3...he

saw clearly in a vision an angel of God...saying to him, "Cornelius! ⁴...Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God." (Acts 10:1-4)

V. PART 4: DAVID WARNED THE LEADERS OF NATIONS—TO OBEY GOD (PS. 2:10-12)

¹⁰Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss 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. (Ps. 2:10–12)