



Summer In The Psalms Series – Lesson 5
NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP
Psalm 4

INTRODUCTION

Ps 4 is an evening psalm (v.8) a companion to Ps 3.
Ps 3 is appropriately prayed when you get up (3:5).
Ps 4 is appropriately prayed before you lie down (4:8).

**What do we need to learn from this psalm that we too many
enjoy God's gift of a good night's rest?**

I. REMEMBER: God Answers the Prayers of the Hurting 4:1

- 1). God will act righteously
- 2). God will give relief

II. REMEMBER: God Honors the Pure in Heart 4:2-5

- 1). Avoid that which is shameful 4:2
- 2). Claim that which is sure 4:3
- 3). Flee that which is sinful 4:4
- 4). Sacrifice that which is sincere 4:5

III. REMEMBER: God Prospers the Hopeful 4:6-7

- 1). Seek the Lord's presence 4:6
- 2). Celebrate the Lord's provisions 4:7

IV. REMEMBER: God Gives Peace to the Humble 4:8

- 1). The humble rest in the Lord
- 2). The humble trust in the Lord

1. The Cries of Anguish (verses 1-2)

We see two cries in these verses.

The first is in verse 1 and is addressed to God.

The second is in verse 2 and is addressed to men, to those who are troubling David.

2, The Conduct of the Godly (verses 3-6)

3, The Comfort of the LORD (verses 7-8)

The Glory And Greatness Of The Messiah-King Psalm 2 I. First Stanza: See the fools who rebel in sinful insurrection 1. Be careful when you scheme 2. Be careful where you stand 3. Be careful what you say 2:1 2:2 2:3 II. Second Stanza: See the God who ridicules with scathing indignation 1. God derides the senseless peoples 2. God declares His sovereign plan 2:4-5 2:6 III. Third Stanza: See the Son who reigns with a supreme inheritance 1. The Son will be

revealed to the nations 2. The Son will rule over the nations 2:7 2:8-9 IV.

Fourth Stanza: See the blessed who respond to salvation's invitation. 1. Be wise and instructed by the Lord 2. Serve and rejoice for the Lord 3. Honor and trust in the Lord 2:10 2:11 2:12

The Glory And Greatness Of The Messiah-King Psalm 2 Introduction : As Scripture unfolds, God has painted the portrait of a Savior. • Gen 3:15 - He will crush the head of the Serpent (Satan). • Gen 12:1-3 - He will come from Abraham. • Gen. 49:10 - He will be of the tribe of Judah from whom the scepter shall not depart, until Shiloh (Peace) comes. • Deut. 18:15 - He will be a prophet greater than Moses. • 2 Sam. 7:5-16 - He will be a Son of David and a Son of God whose throne and kingdom will be established forever. Psalm 2 is a royal Psalm, a coronation Psalm for the King. Acts 4:25 informs us that the author is David. Psalms 1 and 2 serve as the preface to the psalter. These twin songs begin and end with the theme of blessedness (1:1; 2:12). The blessed Man of Psalm 1 becomes and is the Messiah-King of Psalm 2. The blessed righteous of Psalm 1 are the blessed humble who trust this King in Psalm 2. The wicked scoffers in Psalm 1 are the foolish rebels in Psalm 2. This Psalm finds its climatic fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. I. First Stanza: See the fools who rebel in sinful insurrection 1) Be careful when you scheme 2:1-3 2:1 In Acts 4:25-27 Peter saw this verse fulfilled in the murder of God's "holy servant Jesus whom God anointed" (2:2). 2) Be careful where you stand 2:2 • The counsel earth. of the wicked in Psalm 1 is now the wicked counsel of the kings and rulers of the • The righteous/blessed Man of Psalm 1 is not wanted or desired by these political rulers and leaders. 3) Be careful what you say 2:3 They declare freedom from the Lord and His Anointed. II. Second Stanza: See the God who ridicules with scathing indignation 2:4-6 Those who scoff and mock God in Psalm 1:1 are now mocked themselves with divine laughter and derision in 2:4. Verses 1-2 describe the actions of the earthly kings, and v.3 their speech describe the response of the Heavenly King, and v.6 His speech 1) God derides the senseless peoples . 2:4-5 . Verses 4-5 • Boice says, "he does not even rise from where he is sitting. He simply "laughs" at these great imbeciles" (p. 24). • 2 Sam. 7:12-14 will come to pass. 2) God declares His sovereign plan 2:6 III. Third Stanza: See the Son who reigns with a supreme inheritance 2:7-9 God's Messiah now speaks. These Davidic kings were anticipating a final king, the greatest son of David who would reign universally and eternally. That son

of David would be Jesus. 1) The Son will be revealed to the nations 2:7 • The divinely appointed King, God's Messiah, now declares, publicly proclaims the promise made to Him by the Lord. "I will declare (NIV, "proclaim") the decree: The Lord has said to Me, "You are my Son, Today I have begotten You." This Davidic King is by birth and promise the "Son of God." This is observed in the Baptism of Jesus, "This is my Beloved Son" (Matt. 3:17; Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22) and in Isaiah 42:1, "In whom I am well pleased." Jesus is the Lord's Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ. He is also the Servant of the Lord, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah's prophecy. • Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1 are wed and the portrait of the Messiah is made clear. Acts 13:33 sees the resurrection as the occasion of vindication of Jesus' divine Sonship. Romans 1:4 can declare that Jesus Christ is "our Lord, who was born of the seed of David by the resurrection of the dead." Hebrews 1:5 can unite the theme of resurrection to heavenly exaltation and Hebrews 5:5 can further unite the Kingly motif with the priestly idea so that great David's greater Son is now exalted and enthroned as a King-Priest, a Messiah-Priest, after the order of Melchizedek (cf Ezk. 34; Is. 9:6-7). • You want to know if Jesus is the anointed Son of God, the fulfillment of Ps. 2:7? Look to His empty tomb. Look to His exalted throne 2) The Son will rule over the nations at God's right hand. 2:8-9 • Malachi, the last of the prophets, opens the door for Messiah. Psalm 2, the first of the writings, sees Him come marching in! • The book of Revelation beautifully develops the themes and trajectories of Psalm 2:8-9. (Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5; & 19:15) IV. Fourth Stanza: See the blessed who respond to salvation's invitation 1) Be wise and instructed by the Lord 2) Serve and rejoice for the Lord 3) Honor and trust the Lord 2:12 2:11 2:10 2:10-12 Again we see a "fork in the road," 2 lives, 2 ways to live that life, 2 ways to end that life. Conclusion : In Phil. 2:9-11 Paul speaks of God's exalted Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. The language is drawn from Is. 45:23 but the imagery from Psalm 2. Let us bow and kiss the exalted Son!

Summer In The Psalms Series – Lesson 3

THE CURE FOR TURMOIL

Psalm 2

Today I'd like to begin a series of message from the largest and longest book of the Bible, the book of Psalms. But I'd like to picture it, not as the large Hebraic hymn book that it is, but as a little medicine shop, filled with 150 bottles

of ointments, creams, tonics, and medicines for whatever afflicts the soul.

Today's message is entitled, "The Cure for Turmoil." We don't know the background for the word turmoil, or who coined it. But we know it has been around in the English language for about 500 years, and it describes a state of confusion, agitation, or commotion.

That's the kind of world we live in. Whether it's riots in Cincinnati or Quebec City, Mad Cow disease in Europe, political deterioration of sub-Saharan Africa, fighting in the Middle East, the shooting down of a U.S. military plane in China or of a missionary plane in South America, this is a world in turmoil. And sometimes our own lives reflect that turmoil like a miniature mirror.

But God doesn't want us to live in agitation, confusion, or turmoil.

And He provides an antidote in the second Psalm.

Today I'd like to read for you Psalm 2 and show you the four stanzas with their four verbs and four voices.

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of

the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for His wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. This is one of the easiest Psalms to study because it clearly divides into four parts:

Verses 1-3; verses 4-6; verses 7-9; and verses 10-12. Four stanzas of three verses each, and every stanza has a different speaker.

We hear four different voices in this Psalm.

The World Speaks—Key Word: Plotting

In the first stanza, the world is speaking and the key word is "plotting."

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

In other words, the world is in turmoil for one very simple reason—the world is in rebellion against God and against His Anointed One. Now the phrase "Anointed One" in verse 2 is a critical term. In the Hebrew, it is "Messiah," and in the Greek the word is "Christos," or "Christ."

This is a Messianic Psalm and it is one of the most frequently quoted in the New Testament.

For example, in Acts 4, the Jewish Ruling Council calls in the apostles and forbids them from speaking or preaching any more in the name of Christ.

Look at verse 23:

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in a prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David (and now they quote Psalm 2): 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One.' Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed...."

In other words, according to Acts 4, the Psalm 2 passage was a prophecy fulfilled when the Jewish and Roman leaders conspired against God's Christ and put Him to death. It is telling us that the world is in turmoil today because it will not submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I've been reading about the Yalta Conference between Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt. Joseph Stalin is one of the most evil men in history, guilty of mass murder on an unbelievable scale. He is quoted as saying, "One death is a tragedy. One million deaths is a statistic." As a young man, Stalin had actually attended Seminary, but somehow he developed a hatred for God. After his death, his daughter wrote, "And according to some reports, his last conscious act was to raise up his fist in defiance of God before collapsing back onto his bed in death."

And the Bible says this rebellion against God will continue

right to the end of time and will climax in a great war against the people of God at Armageddon. I read recently in the San Diego paper a chilling article that said that as gas prices have been soaring, the result is that billions of increased revenues have been flowing into the oil-rich Persian Gulf states who have been buying tons of weapons. Last year, the United Arab Emirates placed one of the biggest defense orders in the world, buying 80 F-16 fighters, and now they're negotiating the purchase of hundreds of missiles for the jets. Oman is increasing its defense spending by 33% and wants to buy an unspecified amount of F-16s. Iran signed a \$7 billion arms agreement with Russia last week.

Every time you and I fill our cars with gas, we are unwittingly helping finance the most accelerated and massive military buildup in the world today as the Arab nations of the Middle East build up their arsenals and armories, and, of course, they only really have one enemy—the little nation of Israel, so narrow that an F-16 can fly across it in seconds.

There is a worldwide rebellion against submission to the Lordship of Christ, and that same rebellion cuts through our own hearts. There was a movie a few years ago entitled "The Heart is a Rebel," and all of us, left to ourselves, are in rebellion against God. That's what sin is. We want to go our own way, to do our own thing, to live the way we feel like living. But the Bible says that it brings turmoil into our lives.

So in stanza one, the world is speaking: Let us break their chains and throw off their fetters.

The Father Speaks—Key Word: Laughing

Well, what is the Lord's response? In the second stanza, God the Father speaks, and the key word is laughing. The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

This is one of the only times in the Bible in which God is said to laugh, but it isn't a laugh of pleasure, it is a laugh of derision. It's a laugh of rebuke. God's is not intimidated nor is He amused. He has just one thing to say: I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.

In other words, whether you like it or not, whether you acknowledge it or not, Jesus Christ is the reigning king of the universe. We do not yet see all things subject to Him, but we see Jesus.

I'd like to read you something that the old Puritan writer William Plumer wrote regarding this passage:

Of thirty Roman emperors, governors of provinces and others in high office who distinguished themselves by their zeal and bitterness in persecuting the early Christians, one became speedily deranged after some atrocious cruelty, one was slain by his own son, one became blind, the eyes of one started out of his head, one was drowned, one was strangled, one died in a miserable captivity, one fell dead in a manner that will not bear recital, one died of so loathsome a disease that several of his physicians were put to death because they could not abide the stench that filled his room, two committed suicide, a third attempted it but had to call for help to finish the work, five were assassinated by their own people or servants, five others died the most miserable

and excruciating deaths, several of them having an untold complication of diseases, and eight were killed in battle or after being taken prisoners. Among them was Julian the Apostate. In the days of his prosperity he is said to have pointed his dagger to heaven, defying the Son of God whom he commonly called the Galilean. But when he was wounded in battle, he saw that all was over with him, and he gathered up his clotted blood and threw it into the air, exclaiming, "Thou hast conquered, O thou Galilean."

So in the first stanza, the world is plotting, saying, "Let us throw off God's rule and reign," and in the second stanza God the Father responds by laughing, saying, "I have installed my King on my Holy Hill."

The Son Speaks—Key Word: Ruling

Now we come to the third stanza, and here we have God the Son, the Anointed One, the Christ, speaking. This really should be in red letters in your Bible, for here we have the words of God the Son quoted a thousand years before the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

This is forever being quoted in the New Testament. For example, when the apostle Paul is preaching in Acts 13, he quotes this Psalm in this way: We tell you the good news: What God promised to our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the Second Psalm: "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

And we see the same connection again in Hebrews 1: For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father?"

There are repeated references to this verse in the book of Revelation. It's all summed up in that old hymn of Isaac Watts:

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun doth his successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

The Spirit Speaks—Key Word: Warning

And that leads to the fourth stanza—the Holy Spirit speaks. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the narrator, the Psalmist, David, says:

Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss (that is, do homage, reverence, honor, respect) the Son, lest He be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for His wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

When I was a child, the one thing that would restrain my behavior would be my father's wrath. I loved and respected him very much, and I knew he loved me. But there were times when he became angry with my behavior, and I quickly learned I didn't want to provoke those times.

Now God is a God of love and patience, but the Bible also presents Him as a God of wrath and holiness. And there is a warning: His wrath can flare up in a moment. But I also want you to notice the last line of Psalm 2—the line which really gives us the cure for turmoil: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Friday, I heard Charlie Davis, the new executive director of TEAM—The Evangelical Alliance Mission, tell of the kidnapping of their missionary in southern Russia, Herb Gregg, who was kidnapped in Dagestan and held for eight months before being released. The thing that impressed me was something he said about Herb's wife, Linda. She had to leave the country very quickly, because one of the first rules in crisis management is that you get the relatives out of the country quickly, or else the kidnapers will use that as leverage.

So Linda was put on an airplane, leaving behind her husband. Perhaps you can imagine her feelings, her turmoil and terror. But Linda said that she had a walkman with her, and somewhere over the Atlantic, she put on a worship CD, punched the button, and all at once, she said, it was as if the heavens opened. She said, "I know now what Ezekiel saw. I know what John the Apostle saw in the Revelation." Heaven was opened and revealed to her. And when the CD ended, she said, it was as if the doors of heaven closed, but God spoke to her heart and said, "Linda, it's going to be all right." And it was.

The answer to turmoil is to take refuge in the Lordship, the rule, the reign, of God and of His Anointed.

So in this remarkable, Messianic Psalm the world speaks—"Let us throw off the bonds of God and His Christ." God the Father Speaks: "I have set my King on my Holy Hill." God the Son speaks, "I will tell you what the Father said to me: 'You are my Son, today I have become Your Father. Ask me, and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance.'" And God the Spirit speaks, warning us, "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in your for

His anger can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him."

Is He the Savior, Lord, and Master of your life today?