

# “Worship the King of kings”

(Psalm 2)

## Introduction

- While Psalm 2 may not sound like an appropriate or viable “Easter” text, let me assure you that it is most relevant to our celebration of Christ’s resurrection, and fiercely applicable to the times in which we live.
- Psalm 2 was not the second Psalm to be written. The first Psalm to be written was Psalm 90, written by Moses some 1400 years before the coming of Christ. The last Psalm is Psalm 126 about a thousand years later (late sixth or early fifth century b.c.). There is a millennium between the first and last Psalms. Psalm 2 was written about a thousand years before the birth of Christ.  
Those who compiled the book of Psalms (known as the Psalter), intentionally placed Psalm 2 after Psalm 1 because they are in essence two-sides of the same coin. Many scholars (both Jewish and Christian) maintain that Psalms 1 and 2 were at one time combined into one Psalm – with the word a blessing (“*Blessed...*”) at both the beginning (1:1) and end (2:12).
- Psalm 2 is the most quoted Psalm in all of the New Testament. Initially this Psalm was read at the coronation of a king, but ultimately it was written to prophesy about the Messiah – the coronation of the King of kings. Therefore, this Psalm is regarded as a Messianic Psalm as it reveals person and work of the Messiah – Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 2** ~ “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’ <sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision. <sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, <sup>6</sup>‘As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.’ <sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

- This Psalm is noticeably divided into four three-verse scenes.

## 1. The sinful rebellion of man (vs.1-3)

*Psalm 2:1-3 ~ “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’”*

- Our nation, and our world, is drowning in anger, animosity, hostility and violence. It seems that every day we hear about another bombing, mass-shooting, beheading or war. We live in a hostile world, a culture boiling over with frustration and indignation.

The Psalmist begins with a rhetorical question, “*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?*” (vs.1). The answer to this question is not because they are over-caffeinated or under-rested, or because they are over-worked or under-paid. This hostility is spiritual, not physical or emotional. It stems from a rebellion against the Holy God, against His inerrant Word, against His sovereign will, but specifically against His Son – “*against His anointed*” (vs.2).

- Here we see the true motive behind those on the path of the unrighteous – now seen on the national level. Although “*the nations*” (vs.1) can be thought of as referring to people in general, can specifically refer to a foreign or Gentile nation. What are these “nations” doing? We are told right from the beginning, they “*rage*” (continuous commotion or tumult) and “*plot*” (to ponder, plan, growl). The first speaks of their outward hostility, while the latter tells of their internal scheming – both in violent rage “*against the LORD and against his anointed*” (vs.2).

The Psalmist paints the vivid picture of sinful nations roaring like a wild lion and foaming like the ocean waves in the midst of a storm. This rebellion is not simply the people of the nations or just the leaders of the nation. It is both the leaders and the people who harbor this explosive hatred against God. At the peak of this tumultuous rage, the *“kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together”* (vs.2). But for what purpose? What is the reason for their worldly summit? To verbally manifest their spiritual mutiny *“against the LORD”* (YHWH; vs.2, 4, 7, 11) and *“His anointed”* (Christ): *“Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us”* (vs.3). Their sinful council was convened in order to declare their demand to be freed from the reign of God!

- It is the solemn truth that all sinful humans are at enmity with God. Whether passive or active, silent or militant, all non-Christians have hostility in their hearts toward God – which is why they refuse to worship and submit to Him as God.

**Rom 8:7-8** ~ “For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (cf. Eph.2:3; Jms.4:4).

- The scene in Psalm 2 is frightfully similar to that which occurs when the “anointed one” (the Messiah, the Son of God) stepped out of heaven, became a man and walked on the earth as Jesus Christ. After Pilate decided to release Jesus, for he found that Jesus was innocent, the chief priests and rulers of Israel demanded that Pilate release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. When Pilate urged them to reconsider, *“they kept shouting, ‘Crucify, crucify Him!’*” (Lk.23:21).

**John 19:14-16** ~ “Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, ‘Behold your King!’ <sup>15</sup>They cried out, ‘Away with him, away with him, crucify him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar.’ <sup>16</sup>So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.”

- This, as the apostles would later realize, after Christ’s resurrection and ascension, was in fulfillment of what the Psalmist prophesied in Psalm 2. They were raging against God and against His anointed one. They adamantly refused to have the Messiah of God rule over them as King. In vehement hostility, they demanded that Pilate order Jesus to be crucified. But all this occurred according to God’s sovereign plan and will.

**Acts 4:23-30** ~ “When [Peter and John] were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, ‘Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, *‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’* – <sup>27</sup>for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup>while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’”

- The sinful world has declared war against God, against His moral law and against His one and only Son. We see this rebellion today in how our society winks at sin, and mocks the Savior. This is the real motive behind our nation’s preoccupation with sexual immorality, homosexuality, abortion, pornography, and every sin that is abhorrent to God. Today’s “morality” is just yesterday’s immorality relabeled and rationalized. This is the state of our nation, our culture and society, and it is the destiny of everyone who does not receive and revere God’s Son as Savior and Lord.

## 2. The sovereign response of God (vs.4-6)

*Psalm 2:4-6 ~ “He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision. <sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, <sup>6</sup>‘As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.’”*

➤ The Lord God is neither asleep nor aloof. He has neither grown weary, nor has He grown more tolerant. The Psalmist records for us that God “*who sits in the heavens laughs*” (vs.4). This is not humorous laughter, but a sarcastic laughter of derision and contempt. God laughs at man’s foolish and vain attempts to dethrone Him as God or circumvent His authority His sovereign authority.

God’s response may surprise you. He does not cower or tremble or worry on account of the threats from the hostile and rebellious nations. He is seated. The nations are standing against God, but God remains seated in divine glory and power. He is not worried; He is not afraid. For His sovereign power and authority are not in jeopardy, nor is His sovereign will threatened. He laughs at the utter foolishness of His creation challenging Him as the Creator.

✓ Illust: “What is God’s reaction to the haughty words of these pygmy human rulers? God does not tremble. He does not hide behind a vast celestial rampart, counting the enemy and calculating whether or not he has sufficient force to counter this new challenge to His kingdom. He does not even rise from where he is sitting. He simply ‘laughs’ at these great imbeciles” (James Montgomery Boice; *An Expositional Commentary: Psalms 1-41; Ps.2:4-6*).

✓ Illust: In 303 A.D. Diocletian ordered every copy of the Bible to be burned. The Roman Imperial Government demanded that anyone who didn’t turn in their Bible would be killed (and many were). Under Diocletian intense persecution of the church took place for three years (303–305 A.D.). Many churches were destroyed. Bibles were burned, and Christians were martyred. At last, Diocletian had burned so many Bibles that he erected a column over and exterminated Bible that said *Extincto Nomini Christiani Oriam* (the name of the Christians has been extinguished). Twenty-two years later, the first general council (the Council of Nicea, 325 A.D.) met and Constantine declared the Bible as the infallible source of truth.

✓ Illust: “Spurgeon quotes an earlier preacher, William S. Plumer [1802-1880]:

“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 these 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 has conquered, O thou Galilean.’” (James Montgomery Boice; *An Expositional Commentary: Psalms 1-41; Ps.2:4-6*).

➤ God “*laughs*” with righteous indignation against those who try to overthrow His sovereign rule.

**Ps 37:12-17** ~ “The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, <sup>13</sup>but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. <sup>14</sup>The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; <sup>15</sup>their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. <sup>16</sup>Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. <sup>17</sup>For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.”

**Ps 59:7-8** ~ “There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips – for ‘Who,’ they think, ‘will hear us?’ <sup>8</sup>But you, O Lord, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision.”

**Prov 1:24-29** ~ “Because I [wisdom] have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, <sup>25</sup>because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, <sup>26</sup>I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, <sup>27</sup>when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. <sup>28</sup>Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. <sup>29</sup>Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord”

➤ Notice that God (“*the LORD*”, vs.4) does not just laugh at those who rebel against Him, but He also “*holds them in derision*” (vs.4). To their insurrection He speaks judgment. He responds to their insubordinate rage with divine wrath and terrifies them with divine fury (vs.5). The word “*wrath*” (vs.5) pictures nostrils flared with rage, and the “*fury*” (vs.5) the white-hot flames of burning anger.

**Ps 5:4-6** ~ “For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. <sup>5</sup>The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.”

**Ps 7:11-13** ~ “God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. <sup>12</sup>If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; <sup>13</sup>he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.”

**Ps 110:5-7** ~ “The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. <sup>6</sup>He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. <sup>7</sup>He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.”

**Isa 40:10, 15, 21-24** ~ “Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ... <sup>15</sup>Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. ... <sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.”

➤ In Psalm 2:6, we read God’s sobering response by “*As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.*” God’s sovereign plan is unmoved and unchanged. God has established His “*King on Zion*”, which ultimately is His Son – who came to earth, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is now seated at His right hand.

**Ps 33:8-12** ~ “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! <sup>9</sup>For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. <sup>10</sup>The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. <sup>11</sup>The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. <sup>12</sup>Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!”

➤ While this should be very unnerving to non-Christians, it can be soberly encouraging for Christians. For while in this life the unrighteous seem to prosper, and the wicked appear to go unpunished, we know that God is enthroned on high sovereignly ruling over everything and conforming all things to His divine purpose and pleasure. There is great mystery in this truth, but it is nonetheless true: God is perfectly and completely sovereign over everything – including all animals and nature, all viruses and diseases, all nations and governments, all evil and sin, Satan and all his minions – and yet God’s sovereign will is often confounding and ultimately incomprehensible to us.

### 3. The supreme reign of God's Son (vs.7-9)

*Psalm 2:7-9 ~ "I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'"*

- In verse seven, the speaker has changed. It is no longer the Psalmist's words, nor the words of God, but the words of the anointed one – the King on Zion – God's Son. The Son of God now speaks, repeating the words God the Father spoke to God the Son: *"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"* (vs.7). This "intra-Trinitarian" conversation took place in eternity past, and was fulfilled at the resurrection of Jesus Christ (the tomb serving metaphorically as a womb).
- The word *"begotten"* (vs.7) means to have birthed or to bring forth. While the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary as Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk.1:35), the Son of God has never been born (Jn.1:1-3,14). He is self-existing as God, and co-eternal and co-equal with God (Jn.8:58, 10:30). This Psalm is specifically referencing the coronation of Christ through His resurrection from the dead.

**Acts 13:27-34** ~ "For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. <sup>28</sup>And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup>And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup>and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. <sup>32</sup>And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, <sup>33</sup>this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.' <sup>34</sup>And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption..."

**Heb 1:3-5** ~ "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'?" [cf. 2Sam.7:14]

**Heb 5:5-6** ~ "So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.'" [cf. Ps.110:4]

- The Father told the Son, *"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel"* (vs.8-9). The Lord Jesus Christ will execute God's rule and judgment. The *"rod of iron"* (vs.9) is His scepter which reveals His authority as the Son of God. Many people view God as an angry old man (bad cop), and Jesus as His loving and gracious Son (good cop). But Scripture is clear that both God the Father and God the Son are equally and harmoniously loving, gracious, holy and just. In fact, Scripture records for us that God the Father has *"given all judgment to the Son"* (Jn.5:22). Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, and as the Son He will execute God's divine judgment against sinners.
- ✓ **Illust:** One of the more well-known – if not most well-known – American theologians and preachers is Jonathan Edwards. Edwards was born on October 5, 1703, in East Windsor, Conn. He received degrees from Yale University. In 1727, he was ordained and installed as assistant in the church of Solomon Stoddard, his grandfather, at Northampton, Mass. When Stoddard died in 1729, Edwards became pastor. The religious revival, a part of the Great Awakening, came to his church in 1734. It was during this revival that Jonathan Edwards preached, what is now commonly referred to as, his most famous sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741). This sermon is a riveting

exposition from God's Word concerning His holy hatred of sin (Deut.32:35, "their foot shall slide in due time", kjv). Here is an excerpt of that sermon.

"The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood. ...

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. ...

O sinner! consider the fearful danger you are in. 'Tis a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it and burn it asunder; and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment" (Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*; July 8, 1741, Enfield; Connecticut).

➤ Clearly the way of the unrighteous ends in horrific doom and damnation. The Lord Jesus will judge all the people of all nations, and only those who have not rebelled but revered Him as God will be saved.

#### 4. The submissive responsibility of man (vs.10-12)

*Psalm 2:10-12 ~ "Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him."*

➤ Thankfully, hope lies within these verses. There is still hope, there is still time to repent, there is still time to be saved – and that time is right now. Now there is time to recognize and revere Jesus Christ as Lord. Now is the time to ask God for forgiveness, to confess and repent of your sins, and to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

**Isa 55:6-7** ~ "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

**2 Cor 6:2** ~ "... Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

➤ Notice the gentle and patient tone of these verses. In the midst of personal and national rebellion against Him, God still withholds His judgment and wrath (Ps.86:15; Rom.9:22; 2Pet.3:9,15). His patience must not be overlooked, for we must not mistake God's patience for His pardon. Ever the loving and merciful God, He describes what we must do in order to be saved from His wrath poured out on us because of our wickedness.

✓ "*be wise*" (vs.10) ~ In other words, stop acting foolishly. Stop raging, conspiring, and standing against God and start loving, obeying, and kneeling in worship before Him. The wisdom of the Proverbs echoes God's words, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom ...*" (Prov.9:10).

✓ "*be warned*" (vs.10) ~ This could be translated, "Consider yourself warned!" In fact, this Psalm is given as a warning to the wicked and a comfort to the righteous. But still, there will be those on the road of the unrighteous who will scornfully ignore God's countless and gracious warnings and seek to call Him unjust when they face His judgment and wrath.

- ✓ *“serve the LORD with fear”* (vs.11) ~ This service comes as a result of repentance. If Jesus Christ truly reigns in your life and is King of the domain of your heart, then serving Him with and in everything is automatic. The fear of the Lord is the relational understanding of who God is and of who we are. If we are right with God the fear of the Lord is our reverence for Him, however, if we are not right with God the fear of the Lord is terror.
- ✓ *“rejoice with trembling”* (vs.11) ~ The same is true in our joy. Those who seek happiness apart from Jesus Christ should tremble with horror. The “party” of this world will soon be over. However, those who walk in the way of the righteous experience the joy of the Lord in their fear of the Lord.
- ✓ *“kiss the Son”* (vs.12) ~ This is not a romantic kiss, or even a polite kiss on the cheek or hand. This is to kiss the feet of Christ in reverence, worship and humility; to kiss the nail-pierced feet of the risen Christ! This reveals the heart of one who lovingly adores having Christ as their King. Not only does the kiss symbolize the humble submission of a servant, but the praise and worship of one who has been redeemed. For it is only through faith in Christ that a person can be saved from the anger and wrath of God’s Son, and *“perish in the way”* (vs.12).

**John 3:16** ~ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- This Psalm ends with a blessing, but one that is conditional: *“Blessed are all who take refuge in him”* (vs.12). To be *“blessed”* by God is the opposite of being cursed (or condemned) by God. Anyone who is not *“blessed”* by God in this way is automatically cursed by God.

**John 3:18** ~ “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

**John 3:36** ~ “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (see 1Jn.5:11-12)

- To *“take refuge”* (vs.12) in Christ is to take Him as your Redeemer – to believe in Jesus Christ as the one and only Son of God, and to receive Him as your one and only Savior. In other words, those who are blessed are those who repent of their sins and follow Jesus Christ as their Lord.

The question is, “From what (or from who) is Christ our refuge?” God’s Word is clear that Christ is our refuge from the imminent, eternal, and just wrath of God (Jn.3:36; Rom.5:8-9; Eph.5:6; Col.3:6; 1Thess.1:10). God saves us from Himself! And, as the Son of God is the divine executor of God’s judgement (Jn.5:22), Jesus Christ saves us from Himself. Christians are those who have been saved by God, from God, and for God.

## Conclusion

- This Psalm, written thousands of years ago and centuries before the resurrection of Jesus Christ, reveals Him as God’s one and only Son and our one and only Savior. We serve a risen Savior!

**Rev 1:8-18** ~ “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’ <sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, ‘Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.’

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as

though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last,<sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.’”

**Rev 19:11-16** ~ “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.<sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.<sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.<sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.<sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

➤ Jesus is no longer a baby in a lowly manger. He is no longer being beaten, spat upon, flogged nor crucified. He is no longer upon a cross. He is no longer in a tomb. He is risen from the dead and is now seated, in divine glory and power, at the right hand of almighty God.

If this is not your image of Christ your minded needs to be updated, if not utterly corrected. He is no longer the Suffering Servant, but He is now and forevermore shall be the Conquering Christ – the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is absolutely worthy of our worship and obedience. May we sincerely and always worship the King of kings – the risen and glorified Jesus Christ.