

When You Think Wickedness Is Winning

Intro: Every day we see what seems to be an ever increasingly wicked world.

- We see the threat of war as evil men vie for power.
- We see threat of terrorist attack as religious fanatics live out their conceptions of Mohammed's teaching.
- We see promotion of sinful lifestyles (fornication, homosexuality, pornography).
- We see the religious world in the grip of a carnal gospel that caters more to human convenience than to spiritual conviction.
- It may be enough to even conclude that wickedness is winning the battle in this world. In such times it may be helpful to consider the words of Psalm 2.

A quick survey of Psalm 2. We see:

The world plotting, v. 1-3

The nations are pictured as seeking to throw off the rule of God and His anointed one. They imagine that together they can plot and with their joint power overcome the rule of God.

The prophet already hints that such is "futile" or "vain".

The Father laughing, v. 3-6

God's responds to those who plot against him. First he laughs. It is not that God is amused; but that it is absurd to think that those that God created can overpower their Creator! God laughs them to scorn. His laughter turns to anger as he sees those that He created rebellion against Him.

He acknowledges that He has a ruler on earth too! He has installed His king on Mt. Zion. It is through this king that He will terrify those who oppose Him!

God's anointed speaking, v. 7-9

He tells of what God has said to Him!

First that God has acknowledged Him as His Son, his only begotten.

Second that God has promised Him victory over all His enemies.

That through Him they will be thoroughly destroyed.

God's prophet warning and comforting, v. 10-12

The prophet urges all who rule on earth to understand that God and His anointed rules!

Instead of rebelling against God, they should reverence Him and rejoice before Him!

Instead of rejecting His Son, they should do homage to him and obey Him!

And a word of comfort to those who believe in God's anointed ruler!

But what is the meaning of this psalm?

Sometime Ps. 2 is called a "royal psalm". Perhaps some might imagine some OT fulfillment in the kings of Judah, maybe someone like David. For in a sense they were anointed of God and the psalm could be in some way suggesting the

success of their rule. Some have even imagined that the psalm accompanied the coronation ceremony of the king and when the crown was placed upon his head, the words were spoken, "Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee". However, if any Israel king should have fulfilled this psalm, it could only be seen as a foreshadowing of fuller fulfillment by another king to come, the Son of David, our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence it is Messianic! And so in the NT the apostles pointed to this text as being fulfilled in Jesus!

Ac. 13:32-33

Heb. 1:5

Rev. 12:5 Is there any doubt that the child caught up to the throne of God is none other than Jesus Christ?

In these passages then, we see that Jesus is the king reigning on God's holy mountain

Moreover they clearly reveal that it is futile for men to imagine that they can defeat His purposes! This was a source of great encouragement to the NT Christians in the face of adversity and powerful enemies!

Ac. 4:

It was the truth of this psalm that brought Peter and John and their fellow-apostles in prayer to God to ask for His help against the enemies of truth. And God answered in a powerful way. Through the miracle of that day He gave His consent to their understanding and granted them boldness to teach the truth even when it appeared that all the world was against them.

In the same way this passage became the hope of the Christians as they faced the later persecutions of Jerusalem and Rome. John gives these Christian hope by telling them that their Lord Jesus Christ would come in judgment against His enemies.

Rev. 19:11-16

And Rev. 2:27 indicates that we participate in the victory in Christ. His victories are our victories.

What Psalm 2 means to us!

First it means that God is still in control—no matter what Satan does; not matter how many earthly rulers plot together.

Jesus His Son rules at His right hand and it is his purposes that will prevail. When the rulers of this world practice and promote evil they are engaged in a futile task, one they cannot ultimately win.

Those who oppose the purposes of God will suffer God's wrath and punishment.

Those who take refuge in the rule of Jesus Christ will ultimately be blessed.

Conclusion: No matter how powerful evil may seem, God is in control and His cause will be victorious!