

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VILLA RICA, PCA

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed

Villa Rica March 30, 2003

Psalm 2:1-12

We learn in Psalm 2 that the sinful condition of mankind resulting from Adam's disobedience against God's rule continues to manifest itself not only in individuals but also in nations. The disobedient and rebellious spirit in the heart of all mankind takes form and shape in governmental structures. There seems to be no people or nation that is immune from this rebellious and sinful spirit. Even Israel under a theocracy was not immune. Over and over she returned to idolatry and opposition to the reign of God. Israel persistently opposed the prophets sent to her. Remember how Jesus said to the rulers of Israel,

Matt. 23:29-36 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'

31"Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. 33Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? 34Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Verses 1 & 2 of Psalm 2 were specifically cited by the Apostle Peter as having been fulfilled in the uproar that took place before Pilate by the Jews who demanded the crucifixion of Christ. Acts 4:27 states, "**For truly in this city there were gathered together against thy holy servant,**

whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, to do whatever thy hand and thy purpose predestined to occur."

Notice that even in their opposition God was allowing their wickedness for his own purpose in the salvation of men.

I. History Demonstrates Who is in Control Even though men and Nations Persist in Rebellious Conduct Against Their Creator

A. Who was in control when Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden? Who posted Cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life? Who was in control when Noah was ordered to build an ark to the saving of his sons and their wives and then sent a flood that covered the earth killing all the people who resisted God's Word and call? Who was in control when the people of Babel after the flood wanted to build a religious tower and have a universal idolatrous society until their language was confounded so that they had to abandon the idea and were scattered across the earth? Who was in control in human history whenever a nation succeeded in conquering the world and it was either overthrown or became so weakened that it was reduced to an insignificant force, nations such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and in more recent centuries since the coming of Jesus Christ, Rome under the Caesars, France under Napoleon, Germany under Hitler, the Soviet Union under Stalin? But even in a weakened condition Psalm 2 tells of their continued opposition to the reign of the Lord's Anointed. And as we watch the work of the ACLU and other secular humanist and atheistic groups to get rid of every mention of the Lord's Anointed when some likeminded political party takes over the helm of our government will this signal the downfall and demise of America? Pray for a Christ centered spiritual awakening. America certainly needs it.

The Psalmist David asks the question, Psa. 2:1-3 **Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The 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."**

B. As I mentioned in a previous message, the contest in view here at a deeper spiritual level is in reality a contest between God and Satan. We have heaven and hell set before us with the war taking place on earth between the forces of Christ and

the forces of Satan. In Revelation 12 we get the full picture. A woman is pictured in symbolic fashion as being clothed with the sun and the moon is under her feet and on her head is a crown of twelve stars. This woman gives birth to a Son who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The rod of iron is the same symbol as that used in Psalm 2 in the hand of the Lord's Anointed. It is also mentioned in Revelation 2:27 and Revelation 19:15.

This Son is caught up to God and to His throne.

This refers to the ascension of Christ after he had completed his mission of mercy by dying for sinners on the cross and then rising on the third day from the dead.

In heaven the great Satan, called the dragon with his angels fought against the elect angels under the leadership of Michael and they did not prevail but were cast down to the earth. Heaven now is no longer accessible to Satan and his demons. It says in **Rev. 12:9, and the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

The passage goes on to explain that **now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death. (Rev 12:10- 11)**

But the opposition of the dragon is most vehement. It tells us in verse 12, woe to the earth and the sea; because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time. So he sets out to make war with the woman who gave birth to the son. The woman represents Christ's church, that's you and me.

This opposition did not end with Christ being brought before Pilate and his death being demanded by the Jews, it continues on into human history for as long as the present world with the mix of regenerate and unregenerate men continues.

Men do not want the righteous rule of the holy God of heaven. They are in a state of rebellion. They have sinful hearts and wicked inclinations. They cannot abide the righteous decrees and laws of a King who has righteousness as his scepter and holiness as the foundation of his throne.

Notice how formidable they appear to be. They have the majority of peoples and nations in their corner. There seems to be well nigh a universal opposition and it is

well organized and very powerful. From a human standpoint it seems well nigh impossible to overcome the opposition to Christ's reign.

B. We might ask, what is their quarrel against Christ and His reign? What argument can they bring forward against him? After all, his reign is benevolent toward them. It advocates obedience and cooperation by all the people to the governments of men. It is quite clear from scripture that the powers that be are ordained of God and derive their authority from him and people are told to be in submission to those governments. Yet those governments rise up in opposition to the Word of God and want to banish His Word from their kingdoms and realms. We see this going on more and more in America. The Bible is a forbidden book in our public schools and even the Ten Commandments are being forbidden on the walls of government offices, buildings and monuments. Displays of nativity scenes are forbidden and already a Federal Circuit Court has taken under God out of the pledge of allegiance.

Jesus said in John 15:23 **He who hates me hates my father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated me and my father as well. but they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their law, they hated me without a cause."**

II. God's Anointed Must and Does Reign

A. The powers of God in heaven are so vast and all-inclusive that the puny efforts of fallen men to oppose his authority cause God to laugh. He scoffs at them. It is absurd to think that puny mankind can stand against God. If nations are arrayed in opposition against the reign of God's anointed who cannot predict the outcome of the fray? The grand Ruler of the entire universe who brought into existence all things, all worlds, all creatures, whose wisdom is perfect and whose power is Almighty needs but to say the Word and all men would be blotted out. He can do whatever he wills in heaven or in earth. His majesty is sovereign. He counts all the nations as the dust of the balance and as a drop in the bucket. What can puny man do against him to thwart his reign? Men simply do not have the correct understanding of his might and authority. Turn to Isaiah 40:15. Through the prophet God declares his majesty and power. It is a commentary on Psalm 2.

Isaiah 40:15-31 declares, ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;

Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,

Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before Him,

They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God?

Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

¹⁹ As for the idol, a craftsman casts it,

A goldsmith plates it with gold,

And a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver.

²⁰ He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering

Selects a tree that does not rot;

He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman

To prepare an idol that will not totter.

²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard?

Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² 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 out like a tent to dwell in.

²³ He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,

Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

²⁴ Scarcely have they been planted,

Scarcely have they been sown,

Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,

But He merely blows on them, and they wither,

And the storm carries them away like stubble.

²⁵ "To whom then will you liken Me

That I would be *his* equal?" says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high

And see who has created these *stars*,

The One who leads forth their host by number,
 He calls them all by name;
 Because of the greatness of His might and the strength
 of *His* power,
 Not one of *them* is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel,
 "My way is hidden from the LORD,
 And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
 The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends
 of the earth

Does not become weary or tired.
 His understanding is inscrutable.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary,
 And to *him* who lacks might He increases power.

³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired,
 And vigorous young men stumble badly,

³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD
 Will gain new strength;
 They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
 They will run and not get tired,
 They will walk and not become weary.

What encouragement for the Christian who trusts in
 the Lord's anointed, Jesus Christ! But what terror it
 should strike in the hearts of men and nations who rant
 and rage against the Most High God, who blaspheme his
 Name, who seek to expunge his Word and Name
 from the public domain.

B. God has set his Son, the Lord Jesus, on his holy mountain of Zion as King. He tells him in this Psalm that all he has to do is ask and God will give him the heathen for his inheritance, the Gentiles, the nations: So God can turn the hearts of men to himself as it pleases him. This Psalm surely should encourage us to pray for the unsaved sinners around us. He can change hearts. He can bring awakenings. He can bring revival. And the power in Christ's hand is so sovereign that he can break nations and people like pottery broken by a rod of iron. Indeed, he says that he does do this.

C. God tells kings and judges of the earth to have some discernment. They should worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. They should give glory to God and pay homage to the Son, for if they do not He may become angry and they will perish in their sins.

Psalm 2 concludes on this note, **how blessed are all who take refuge in Him!** His reign has commenced in those who believe in Him and they can know that God is going to bless them for having done so. Are you in Him? Have you come to Him for mercy and pardon and life eternal? Come to Christ today!

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