

Psalm II
Christ and His Kingdom
The Triune God speaks to the nations and to His Church.

Introduction

“Yet I have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion” [Psalm 2:6] —“this is the speech of God the Father, speaking by his Spirit in the prophet concerning Christ his Son.”¹ Christ the King rules the nations from His Church, the Holy Hill of Zion, established by the Father. Christ rules His Church as King and Head of the Body. Christ rules over nations as the Supreme Sovereign before whom all princes, magistrates, and people must give obedient allegiance.

Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He rules today, as well as from the beginning and forever. He is Joshua [Jehovah is salvation²] the Christ, anointed to be “the faithful witness, and the first-begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.”³ Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” [Rev. 1:5-6]. As redeemed subjects of the King we reign with Him today. We are to be disciples of men, of those who claim the name of Christ as their Savior, and of those who are of the civil realm.

The Spirit has given us understanding of the “exceeding greatness of [the Father’s] power to us-ward who believe according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And hath put all thing sunder his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” [Eph. 1:19-23].

¹ David Dickson, The Psalms, The Banner of Truth Trust, 1995, pg 6.

² Christ Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary was of the Holy Spirit, “And she shall call his name ‘Joshua’; for he shall save his people from their sins.” Jesus [Joshua] was morn that the will of God might be fulfilled, “which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” [Matt. 1:20-23]

³ The persons who are here supposed to be subject to Christ, are kings, civil rulers, supreme and subordinate, all in civil authority, whether in the legislative, judicial, or executive branches of government. Of such Jesus Christ is Prince--ο αρχων, ruler, lord, chief, the first in power, authority, and dominion.” Wm. Symington, Messiah the Prince, The Christian Statesman, Pittsburgh, P, 1999, pg. 136.

They set themselves against the King 2:1-3

“Why do the heathen rage,¹ and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against his Anointed,² saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

Why do the heathen rage? Is it not because the Light of Heaven is too bright for them? The heathen become enraged, their anger turns into noisy deceptions, unable to accept the truth that bears down upon their souls. They mutter and growl, coo and whisper, hoping that what they plot behind closed doors will squelch the brightness of the truth. Those in position of power, the princes and magistrates counsel together to break the bands that the Lord has placed upon them.

Remember, we are not to look upon the evil that besets us as if we are the cause of the trouble. For the Devil and his cohorts in this world plot against God’s Anointed, Joshua—the Savior of His people. However, the Devil, Satan, the Deceiver of the world, has been “cast out into earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” The Christian is not overcome by the wicked, for “Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death” [Rev. 12:9-11].

The wicked are the ones who are broken and chained by the Word of God, by the Christ whose victory is seen in His death and ascension. The wicked war against the Righteous who belong to the Great King of kings. The ungodly desire to break that yoke, those chains which hinder them from having victory. All their counsel, all their ranting and raging, all their efforts to make immorality the law of the land, cannot break the chains they wear, the chains which the Lord has given them; for they cannot hope to chain us unless they can find a way to unchain themselves. So, why are we so timid in our battle for righteousness, whether we carry boldly Christ’s Standard in the church or in the civil government?

The Anointed King of Zion 2:4-6

“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh;³ the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion.”⁴

What does it mean that our Lord sits in the heavens and laugh? Calvin gives a hint of its meaning, saying that we ought to let the heathen “exalt themselves as they may, they shall never be

¹ Acts 4:23-31.

²“The kings of the earth have confederated, and the princes have assembled together, against Jehovah and against his Christ” [Calvin’s translation].

³“Let them exalt themselves as they may, they shall never be able to reach to heaven; yea, while they think to confound heaven and earth together, they resemble so many grasshoppers, and the Lord, meanwhile, undisturbed beholds from on high their infatuated evolutions” J. Calvin.

⁴Zion’s Chief Cornerstone: 1 Peter 2:5-10.

able to reach heaven; yea, while they think to confound heaven and earth together, they resemble so many grasshoppers, and the Lord, meanwhile, undisturbed beholds from on high their infatuated evolutions.” The Lord continues to disturb and disrupt their efforts, confusing them in their thoughts.

God the Father has set His King on His Holy Hill of Zion! Do the heathen really believe they can dethrone the King of kings and Lord of lords? They would have to convince God the Father to remove the Son from the eternal throne established for His glory. Men are foolish in their words as if they are able to turn the tables on God, that they are the true saviors of men. They are drowning in their vomit and telling others how to escape the vomit of eternal hopelessness.

The King of kings reigns with power and great authority. And He is the Sovereign whose throne is Zion. Thus the Church must be careful in their words and actions. The King will not always show patience with those who surround His throne, who interpret His written Word, as they feel fit, of those who preach unrighteousness as the way of their Creator.

Thou Art My Son 2: 7-9

“I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son;¹ this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them in pieces like a potters vessel.”

Daniel presents the restoration of the Jerusalem as that which belongs to “Messiah the Prince” [Daniel 9:25]. In Daniel 7:13-14 we see the character of this Prince: “and behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”²

The eternal Son of God is The Anointed, The Messiah, The Son of Man. His authority over all nations and peoples is derived from the Godhead. He is the Divine Son who reigns with the authority of the Triune Godhead, of which He is the ‘Second Person’! By counsel and decree of the Divine Godhead, the Messiah has as His footstool those who would declare themselves as His enemies. Christ Jesus shall reign until He “hath put all enemies under his feet” (1 Cor. 15:25). Paul writes to the faithful saints at Ephesus, recognizing that Christ is now at the right hand of God, ruling with all divine authority, “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion;”

¹ Acts 13:32-33; Hebrews 1:5-9; Daniel 9:25; Mark 1:11.

² “The reference of this passage to Christ will not be doubted. The eternal Son of god, viewed with regard to his human nature and mediatorial character, is he who is called the ‘Son of Man.’ The power spoken of is clearly mediatorial, as it said to be ‘given’ to him. It is also universal, including ‘all nations,’ of whom it is predicted that they should ‘serve him,’ which certainly supposes the possession of rightful authority over them” (William Symington, Messiah the Prince, The Christian Statesman Press, Pittsburgh, PA, 1999, page 133.

and that all things has been put under his feet, giving to Christ the Son “to be head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:20-22).

The heathen believe that they are the masters of their destinies, and the masters of the destinies against whom they vent their anger. However, Wisdom teaches us that “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits” (Prov. 16:2); and that though man seemingly devises his own way, “the Lord directs his steps” (16:9). Man shall not exercise any authority over another that is not of the Lord, nor shall he claim authority over that Authority which God alone has as their Creator and Lord. Those who do so are transgressors of the moral Law of God and will either repent or know His wrath. For “Thou shalt not have none other gods (authorities) before me. . . .Thou shalt not bow down thy self to them, nor serve them; for I am jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments” (Deut. 5:6-10).

THEREFORE

Serve the Lord with Fear 2:10-12

“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son,¹ lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way,² when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

Shall we hide this admonition from the magistrates of this world? Are they less responsible to the Supreme Authority, their Creator and God? Our Congress, at its inception, sought both to pray and worship the Triune God who had providentially brought them into existence. They deny the God of justice and mercy when they seek to remove Him from their deliberations and decisions, creating a secular system that denies His presence. The atheist can only seek to cover their Creator’s existence, not stop His counsel and work of judgment and mercy.

The King of kings, The Branch of Righteousness, rules as Sovereign over all nations today, executing justice and righteousness on the earth (Jer. 23:5). Those who hold office in the civic realm must honor the Son as their Sovereign, or know His anger. Speaking of the Son, “The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion; rule thou in the midst of thine enemies” (Ps. 110:2). The Son rules with righteous judgment: “The Lord at my right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries: (110:5-6). The gospel, which we preach, includes this clear warning to those who rule or serve in ungodly manners.

¹John 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 1:17.

²The wicked (unrighteous) “are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever” [2 Peter 2:17].

Our faith must be set firmly, and exercised in every thought and deed, in Christ Jesus, who is the “blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Tim. 6:15). Trust in the Lord, being convinced that He alone is our Salvation. Fear the Lord, coming to Him alone who can lead us in the path of righteousness.

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