

Psalm 2: The Reign of God

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Psalm 2: Coronation Song for the Davidic King

- Author: David (Acts 4:25)
- Genre: Royal
- Occasion: The anointing of the king (Solomon, I Kings 1)
- Messianic: points to one greater than Solomon



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Psalm 2: Figurative Language & Key Words

Actions on Earth (psalmist speaks)

¹ Why do the nations **rage** and the peoples **plot** in vain? *Hagah = meditate, murmur (Ps 1:2)*

² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, YHWH

³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." metaphor *English = Anointed One*
Hebrew = Messiah
Greek = Christ

Actions in Heaven (God speaks)

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. *anthropomorphism*
adonai

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." *Literally: Jerusalem*

Figurative/symbolic: God's dwelling place on earth

Psalm 2:1 Or nations noisily assemble

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Psalm 2: Figurative Language and Key Words

(The Anointed One [Messiah] speaks)

⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Heb: yeled – "fathered"
The king rules with God as

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

father and son

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

hyperbole
metaphor
simile

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

honor, respect

¹² 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.

Psalm 2:9 Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) You shall rule

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¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ **I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.** When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

– 2 Samuel 7:12-17

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Psalm 2: Author

(The Anointed One [Messiah] speaks)

⁷ I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “**You are my Son;**
today I have begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

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Psalm 2:9 Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

2 Samuel 7:14

Fulfillment: Solomon & the Golden Age of Israel
The name “Solomon” from the Heb. *shalom* (peace)

Serving YHWH and respecting his son/king/anointed one were effectively one and the same

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Psalm 2: Theology

Actions on Earth (psalmist speaks)

¹ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

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 burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”

Actions in Heaven (God speaks)

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

Anthropology: It is human nature to rebel

Sovereign (sits in heaven)
Transcendent (beyond)

Just

Immanent (near, dwelling in our midst)

Psalm 2:1 Or nations noisily assemble

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Psalm 2: Theology

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⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² 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.

Psalm 2:9 Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

YHWH expresses his sovereignty through a human agent (the king)

YHWH is to be worshiped with reverent rejoicing

YHWH’s judgment is punitive

YHWH is also a refuge to those who trust in him

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Psalm 2: The Editor

A companion to Psalm 1

- Similar words: “perish”, “meditate”, “blessed”, “way”, “counsel”, “mock”, “judgment/wrath”
- Wisdom and folly apply to the individual (1) as well as nations (2) (**perish**)
- Attitude toward the Torah (1) (**meditate**) and attitude toward the King (2)
- The first word of Psalm 1 (**blessed**) is the “last word” of Psalm 2 (an *inclusio*)
- Both psalms are untitled (although the Acts 4 assigns Psalm 2 to David)

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Psalm 2: The Editor

- **Psalm 1** = the purpose of the Psalms
 - instructions for happiness, the good life
 - instructions for handling God’s word (meditate, obey)
 - be blessed as an individual
- **Psalm 2** = the message of the Psalms
 - YHWH reigns
 - instruction (worship, obey)
 - be blessed as a community/nation

Both are connected by the thread of **justice**
 - the consequences of rebelling against reality

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Psalm 2: The Editor

Two Covenants

Psalm 1 – Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3)

- Blessed to be a blessing
- Fruitfulness

Psalm 2 – Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:16)

- God rules through Solomon from Zion
- David’s line of kings would be unbroken, with a descendent on the throne forever

Matthew’s gospel announces Jesus as son of **David**, son of **Abraham** (Matthew 1:1)

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Psalm 2: A Messianic Psalm

- A coronation psalm for Davidic kings beginning with Solomon
- However, Jerusalem fell in 586 BC and King Zedekiah was imprisoned in Babylon
- The nation was dominated by successive foreign powers for 600+ years
- In the first century AD, the Jewish people understood this to be a messianic psalm, fueling a messianic hope for a king like **David (power)** and **Solomon (wisdom, justice and peace)** to overthrow the Roman oppressors and usher in a new era.

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Psalm 2: Jesus

(The Anointed One [Messiah] speaks)

⁷ I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² 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.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

Jesus' baptism and
transfiguration

Jesus' crucifixion:

"Truly this man was the (a)
son of God" (Mark 15:39) –
confession of the centurion

Sign posted on the cross:

"Jesus of Nazareth, King of
the Jews"

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Psalm 2: The New Testament

Actions on Earth (psalmist speaks)

¹ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

Acts 4:25b-26

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 burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

Actions in Heaven (God speaks)

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

[Psalm 2:1](#) Or nations noisily assemble

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Acts 4:27-31

²⁷ 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, ²⁸ **to do whatever your hand and your plan had
predestined to take place.** ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their
threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your
word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to
heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name
of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the
place in which they were gathered together was shaken,
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to
speak the word of God with boldness.

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Psalm 2: The New Testament

(The Anointed One [Messiah] speaks)

⁷ I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."

Acts 13:33

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² 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.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

"We tell you the good news: What
God promised our ancestors ³³ 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.'
³⁴ God raised him from the dead so
that he will never be subject to
decay. As God has said, "'I will give
you the holy and sure blessings
promised to David.'
– Acts 13:32b-34

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Psalm 2: The New Testament

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The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."

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⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
¹² 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.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

Hebrews 1:5

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"?

Hebrews 5:5

⁵ 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";

Jesus is both King and Priest

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Psalm 2: The New Testament

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The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
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Actions on earth (the psalmist speaks)

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for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

[Revelation 2:27](#) ²⁶ The one who conquers and who
keeps my works until the end, to him I will give
authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule (Gk.
shepherd) them with a rod of iron, as when earthen
pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have
received authority from my Father.

[Revelation 12:5](#) And the dragon stood before the
woman who was about to give birth, so that when she
bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a
male child, one who is to rule (Gk. *shepherd*) all the
nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up
to God and to his throne,

[Revelation 19:15](#)
¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to
strike down the nations, and he will rule (Gk.
shepherd) them with a rod of iron. He will tread the
winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the
Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a
name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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Psalm 2: The New Testament

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The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you."

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Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*

A missionary prayer

Kingdom expansion

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Psalm 2: Application

Actions on Earth (psalmist speaks)

- ¹ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
- 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 burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."

**Resistance to God's
Sovereignty is Futile**

Actions in Heaven (God speaks)

- ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
- ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."

**Rejoice in God's
Sovereignty**

[Psalm 2:1](#) Or *nations noisily assemble*

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Psalm 2: Personal Application

[\(The Anointed One \[Messiah\] speaks\)](#)

⁷ I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you. **Participate in God's mission**

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

[Actions on earth \(the psalmist speaks\)](#)

¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth. **Worship Jesus**

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Take refuge in Him**

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

[Psalm 2:9](#) Revocalization yields (compare Septuagint) *You shall rule*