



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Power and Privilege of Prayer

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Psalm 2:1-12 *“Why have the nations conspired, and the peoples are plotting in vain? 2) The kings of the earth are taking their stand, and those ruling have counseled in assembly all together, against the LORD and against His Christ; 3) ‘Let us therefore be tearing apart their bonds and let us cast from us their cords.’ 4) He who sits in the heavens is laughing; and the Lord is having them in derision. 5) Therefore He is speaking to them in His wrath and in His fury He thus is terrifying them. 6) ‘And I Myself have set (poured out) My King on Zion, My holy hill; 7) I am thus declaring the decree of the LORD,’ He said to Me, ‘You are My Son. Today I Myself have begotten You. 8) Ask of Me and I will continually give the nations as Your heritage and the ends of the earth as Your possession. 9) You are breaking them with a rod of iron, like a potters vessel You are dashing them in pieces.’ 10) Now at this time, ye kings be wise; chasten yourselves ye rulers of the earth. 11) Ye serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling; 12) Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who seek refuge in Him.”* (My translation)

to equip them to fight against God and His Son? Who is the author of this psalm? Is it used in the New Testament? What are those “bonds” and “cords” that the nations and their leaders are trying to remove? Is God concerned about their attacks? What is His solution? Why this singular emphasis on prayer? How does one “Kiss the Son” and become “Blessed?”

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 25: ACTS 16:6-10 **GOD’S STRATEGY POINTS TO THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL**
- FEBRUARY 1: ACTS 16:11-15 **WOMEN WERE THE FIRST EUROPEANS GIVEN THE GOSPEL**

Though Psalm 2 is not immediately attributed to David as its author, the New Testament verifies that he wrote it (Acts 4:25). He wrote in identification with his greatest son who would be God’s Son, the Messiah, who was promised an eternal kingdom. This hope of a future Messiah, who would reign forever, has been the hope of God’s people from the beginning of time. What David found to be astounding was that there were so many in leadership who would have the audacity and foolishness to conspire and plot against God and therefore against their own soul, ignoring the reality of who they were against, and that such will cause them to eternally perish!

“THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL, AND ALL THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD.”

PSALM 9:17

“ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES, AND HE WHO SEEKS FINDS, AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS IT WILL BE OPENED.”
MATTHEW 7:7-8 JESUS CHRIST

What is the background for such an abrupt beginning of this Psalm? Who are these “nations,” “peoples” and “kings”? Are they really so foolish to think that their numbers are sufficient

I. THE CONSPIRING

PSALM 2:1-3

There are numerous scholars who connect Psalm 1 and 2 as the introduction to the Psalter. The most obvious connections are that Psalm 1 begins with a Beatitude, “Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful,” and Psalm 2 ends with a Beatitude, “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” Both psalms contrast

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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the wicked and the godly in both character and in action. The emphasis on the “*Blessed man*” delighting in the “*Law of the Lord*” and meditating in it “*day and night*” and the picture of the tree illustrating that “*whatever he does shall prosper*” points to a similar promise to kings (Deut 17:18-20) and leaders (Joshua 1:8) which connect it directly to the royalty of Psalm 2. Their themes together form an introduction to the entire Psalter. The path of prosperity in contrast to perishing flows directly from the first to the second psalm. Most significantly the contrasting unnamed people of Psalm 1 are named in Psalm 2. And so it is the “*ungodly*” and “*sinner*” and the “*scornful*” who are “*plotting*,” “*taking their stand*” and “*have counseled in assembly all together, against the LORD and against His Christ.*” Their strength in leadership and numbers acquire vain attempts to cast off the restraints in the Scriptures.

“CALL UNTO ME AND I WILL ANSWER THEE AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT.”

JEREMIAH 33:3

II. THE CONQUERING

PSALM 2:4-9

God not only holds those who plot and scheme against Him and His Son in derision and laughs at their feeble attempts to throw off His truth, He has provided many means by which they are conquered. They are conquered first by God personally in their own conscience as He reminds them that their path leads to destruction and thus He “*is terrifying them*” so that they cannot continue to enjoy their sin. They may love it at the beginning, but soon their conscience begins to gnaw at them as “*His wrath*” and “*His fury*” at their sin begins to do a work in their heart so that they cannot be happy in it. The second means of conquering occurs in God sending His Son. It is emphatic in the original—“*I Myself have poured out My King on Zion, My Holy Hill.*” We already know the name of this King, it is “*His Christ*” to whom God has said “*You are My Son.*” Therefore David understood when he

wrote this psalm that the future Messiah King, the “*Christ*” or Anointed one would suffer and be “*poured out*,” just as David prophesied so clearly in Psalm 22, and especially verse 14. What is amazing is that Psalm 22 even describes crucifixion before crucifixion was invented (v. 16). Even the uniqueness of the virgin birth of Christ is prophesied emphatically “*I Myself have begotten You*” in Psalm 2:7. Our power involves the third means that is given to conquer the wicked, “*Ask of Me and I will continually give You the nations as Your heritage and the ends of the earth as Your possession.*” Beautifully, this suffering King has passed on to us the same privilege in His great Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:7-14. The souls of the lost and their leaders are ours for the asking and Jesus presents emphatic emphasis, promises and arguments to encourage us in prayer and the Golden Rule provides His climax, “*Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*” All of Scripture is summed up for the first time in one statement of love! The fourth & final means of conquering occurs when the unbeliever resists the Holy Spirit sent to them through prayer—they will be broken with Christ’s “*rod of iron.*”

“I AM ALREADY BEING Poured OUT AS A DRINK OFFERING, AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND.”

2 TIMOTHY 4:6 PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS DEATH

III. THE KISSING

PSALM 2:10-12

The Scriptures call for wisdom and repentance, “*Now at this time, ye kings be wise; chasten yourselves ye rulers of the earth. Ye serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.*” What better way to reveal that the Son is merciful, while also showing the unbelievers that they are in great eternal danger? The requirement to kiss with this same word is used in both Genesis 27:26 and 41:40 where each must accomplish what is hardly possible while a blessing is sought, and *Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*”

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you among those leaders who conspire, plot, take your stand and counsel together against the LORD and His Christ?
- 2) Have you recognized the power and privilege of prayer and are you conquering in intentional prayer for our leaders?
- 3) As a leader are you wisely seeking His blessing in submission to Him and demonstrating to all that you trust Him?