Opening Words

Jesus has come to claim all the nations for God. Jesus has come to quiet the rebellion of the earth, to subdue the nations of the world and to reinstate the reign of God. Today we are going to discover how he does this and how you and I get to be part of it.

204 SS Psalm 2 – The Lord Reigns – Part 3

God has an answer, God has a response for every experience on earth. To the brokenhearted he is near. To those who mourn he is the comforter. To the pure he reveals himself. To those who are obedient he blesses.

We have also seen in recent days that God has other kinds of responses to other kinds of earthly realities. We have discovered that to the individuals and the nations that plot against him, his response is to laugh. Imagine if you were watching the news and you heard a report about a group of, say, 50 Amazon Indians who have lived in the jungle most of their life and their weapons are only crude spears and small bows and arrows. They have taken offense at the United States and have declared war. How scared would you be of this new war threat? I bet you and I both would find the story somewhat amusing. That's the way that God looks upon the threats of the nations against him.

But we also discovered that God responds in a second way. God reminds the kings of the earth that he has a representative on the earth and the nations must bow to him. God has installed his king on Mt. Zion. We know who this king was. It was David, then Solomon, then their descendants. But we also recognize that the kings of Judah were sinful men and their representation of God was not perfect. Some of the kings of Judah were wicked idolaters. Could this passage be speaking about another descendant of David? Let's look at the next three verses of Psalm 2.

First we hear the king of Judah speaking and he is going to tell us what Yahweh, the God of Israel said to him on the day he took his seat on the throne on Mt. Zion.

> I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD:
> This is what Yahweh said to Me, 'You are My Son,
> Today I have begotten You.
> 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
> And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.
> 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron,
> You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

The king on Mt. Zion begins by saying, "God has spoken to me. God has issued a decree."

This is now the third time God has spoken in this Psalm. The first time he spoke, he laughed. The second time he spoke he said to the rebel kings of the world that he had enthroned his king on Mt. Zion. Now, the third time God speaks is to this king enthroned on Mt. Zion and this king is going to

tell us what God said to him. First, God said to him, "You are my Son. Today I have begotten you." If you remember in previous messages, this was the ritual that took place in ancient Israel when a new king was installed on the throne of Judah. He was considered to be adopted into God's family. He became a son of God and as a member in God's family he was to rule the world.

But do these words sound familiar to you? "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." Yes, these are the words spoken to Jesus at his baptism! You remember the story. John the Baptist is preaching in the wilderness. He is preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah. The people are repenting of their sins and he is baptizing them in the Jordan. They come through the waters of baptism as if a new exodus of God's people is taking place, as if their exile to sin is coming to an end. But as John baptizes he looks for someone special. God has revealed to John that he will baptize a man, heaven will open, and the Holy Spirit will come upon him. When John sees the Holy Spirit come upon this man and remain, then he will know that this one is the Messiah.

One day, as John was finishing, it is as if he called out, "Are there are more. Is there anyone else that I can baptize?" and a man stepped forth from the crowd. It was Jesus, his cousin. John had heard reports about Jesus from his parents. As Jesus stepped forth their eyes locked. A small smile played upon the lips of Jesus and John's heart began to beat fast. Could Jesus be the one? John had heard the strange stories from his father and mother of his own birth and of the stranger events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

As Jesus approached a sense of the majesty of this person and his own unworthiness began to engulf him. John said, "I need for you to baptize me." But Jesus said, "No John, you must do this. You must baptize me. This act of humility, this baptism, this identification with sinners, is how we will carry out the plan of God."

John obeyed. And then it happened – the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended in what looked like the form of a peaceful dove and it stayed upon him and then unexpectedly a voice resounded from heaven. God was speaking in Israel and God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." And John knew that Jesus was the Messiah.

Yes, that is where you heard it. At Jesus' baptism. When God spoke, he quoted from Psalm 2, the very psalm you and I are looking at, the psalm that tells us about the rebellion of the kingdoms of the world, the psalm that tells us about God laughing, the psalm that tells us about God installing his king and the psalm that tells us God's word to this king. Psalm 2 was a coronation hymn for the kings of Judah and was a word of warning to the surrounding nations to obey the king of Judah, but it was always more than that. It was a prophecy of the true son of David who would come, it was a prophecy of Messiah who would rule the nations and when Jesus was baptized God spoke from this psalm and identified Jesus as the true king of Israel and the nations.

That's the first thing that God said to the king in Psalm 2 – "You are my son. I have begotten you. You are the king." Here is the second thing God said to him. This is verse 8: "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession." God has invited the king to ask him for something. God has told this king, "ask me for something and I

will do it for you." Make it as big as you wish. Ask me for the ends of the earth and I will give them to you."

And my friends, that is exactly what Jesus has done. Jesus has come for the very ends of the earth. Jesus has come to claim all the nations for God. Jesus has come to quiet the rebellion of the earth. Jesus has come to subdue the nations of the world and to reinstate the reign of God upon the earth.

After his resurrection Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth therefore go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them and training them to obey."

Then 40 days later Jesus was enthroned at the right hand of God in the heavenly Jerusalem, in the heavenly Mt. Zion and there he reigns over the nations of the world and directs his people to proclaim the Gospel to the nations to bring the rebellion to an end. "Ask of me," Yahweh said to the Messiah, "ask me for the ends of the earth." And Jesus has been asking and God has been answering for the past 2000 years.

May I add this – Jesus is asking for the nations today. You and I get to be part of the answer to this prayer as we devote our extra resources for outreach to the nations. Many are ready to translate our teaching into their languages. I appeal to you to give also for the daily needs of WGS Ministries that we may proclaim the word of God. Will you do this?

God said a third thing to the king, "You shall rule them with a rod of iron and break them like pottery." The rod of iron can also be translated a shepherd's staff. In the ancient world, a king was often pictured as a shepherd. We can translate it either way, ruling with a rod of iron or with a shepherd's staff and perhaps the instrument of ruling is dependent upon us. If we are going to remain stubborn and rebellious, the Messiah will have to use a rod of iron. But if we bow the knee, if we submit to him, if we humble our hearts, he will lead us with his shepherd's staff and he will lead us to the abundant waters that give life and prosperity in the things of God.

This is what God said to the king. This was a prophecy of the Jesus the Messiah which was fulfilled in his life, death, resurrection, enthronement, and pouring out of the Spirit. This is being fulfilled in our day as Jesus reigns from his throne in the heavenly realms where he presides over the principalities and the powers that seek to enslave mankind. But Jesus is Lord and he invites us to call upon him and to use the power of his name to spread his word to the very ends of the earth.

Psalm 2 concludes with these words.

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
11 Worship the LORD with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.
12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Thus ends Psalm 2 and the two-chapter introduction to the entire book. God is doing something about the counsel of the wicked and the scoffing nations. He has enthroned Jesus to his right hand and calling the people of the world and the governments of the world to bow to him.

I don't know how many governmental leaders are listening to this right now, but I know you are. Will you bow to him? You may not be a king, you may not be a government leader, but you still must humble yourself before God. Worship the Lord, do homage to the Son, enter his path and let him lead you into soul satisfaction and prosperity in the things of God.