Psalm 2

Intro: This Psalm is a Messianic psalm, pointing to Christ and his kingdom's establishment. It would be established in spite of any and all opposition, thus it is foolish for men to oppose God. This psalm is a “Psalm of Voices” with several speakers and what they say is quite revealing. We would do well to here what is said here.

1. **THE VOICE OF ASTONISHMENT**
   a.  Psa. 2:1-3 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”
   b.  The speaker is astonished at some things that are happening. It is beyond all reasoning that this occurred.
   c.  Antagonism:
      i.  Psa. 2:1 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”
      ii.  It shows itself in the foolish rage of the people. Their attitude is one of anger and rage.
      iii.  Rom. 1:30 “Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,”
         1)  The atheist refers to the “immorality of God” and say they would rather go to hell than obey God.
         2)  They ascribe to God what should be placed upon the Devil.
            a)  suffering
            b)  pain and anguish
            c)  discord and strife
            d)  wars
            e)  etc.
      iv.  Imagine
         1)  It is the same word as meditate in Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
         2)  The people concentrate on things that are worthless.
   d.  Arrogance:
      i.  Psa. 2:2 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,”
      ii.  The antagonism of Psa. 2:1 will show itself in many ways, one will be seen in the arrogance of the people.
      iii.  They set themselves up in places that they have no right to. They feel self-sufficient. They are arrogant.
         1)  Pro. 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
         2)  Pro. 18:12 “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.”
         3)  Luke 14:11 “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
         4)  Jam. 4:6 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”
         5)  1 Pet. 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”
         6)  Mat. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
   e.  Assumptions:
      i.  Psa. 2:3 “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”
ii. They declare that they will have liberty. They will not live with God's restraints. They want to be free to live lawless lives.

(1) “No God for me”; Psa. 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”

(2) Rom. 1:28 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

iii. We still have one “lib” movement after another.

(1) “free love”
(2) women’s liberation
(3) Those in the church who wish to liberate us from law.

2. THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY

a. Psa. 2:4-6 “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”

b. In spite of what kings, judges and other may say, there is one who has the last word: He is God. We see His:

c. Derision:

i. Psa. 2:4 “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.”

ii. Though they set themselves to oppose him, God still sits in control.

(1) Dan. 2:20-22 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: 22He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.”

(2) Rom. 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

(3) Rom. 13:1 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

iii. God laughs at the puny efforts of man to snatch control.

iv. His will is sovereign and no one will be able to unseat him.

d. Displeasure:

i. Psa. 2:5 “Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.”

ii. God will show his displeasure by his wrath.

(1) Rom. 2:8-9 “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;”

(2) 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

(3) Heb. 10:29-31 “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

(4) Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

iii. Men like Pilate, Herod, and others cannot hope to escape.

e. Determination:

i. Psa. 2:6 “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.”

ii. The way of the Lord is settled; men are not going to stop it.

iii. God would set up his kingdom regardless; Dan. 2:44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the
 kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

1. Of the Jews
2. Of Satan; Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

iv. God did set up his kingdom with Christ as king.

1. Christ is king
   a. 1 Tim. 6:15 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”
   b. Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”
   c. Rev. 19:16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

2. The kingdom is established; it is the church.
   a. Mat. 16:16-19 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
   b. Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
   c. Rev. 1:5-6 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

3. THE VOICE OF AFFIRMATION

a. Psa. 2:7-9 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

b. The king sets forth his position in spite of what those who are in rebellion may do or say. The king speaks of his:

   c. Person:
      i. Psa. 2:7 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”
      ii. His is the Son of God

   (1) This phrase is an expression of his character.
   (2) He is the manifestation of God in human form.
      a. Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
      b. 1 Tim. 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
      c. John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

   (3) It does not mean that he derived his being from the Father.
   (4) He is God.
      a. John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”
All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

(b) **He is the “I am”**

(i) John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

(ii) Exo. 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

(c) Phi. 2:6-8 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

(d) **He is the Mighty God**

(i) Isa. 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

(ii) Isa. 10:21 “The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.”

iii. This day have I begotten thee.

(1) This is used to refer to the resurrection of Christ.

(a) Acts 13:33-37 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”

(b) Heb. 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”

(c) Heb. 5:5 “So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.”

(d) Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

iv. Thus, we do not have to wonder who is to be king.

(d) **Position:**

i. Psa. 2:8 “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”

ii. Christ would reign and it will be universal.

(1) He is King

(a) 1 Tim. 6:15 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”

(b) Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

(c) Rev. 19:16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

(2) He is Lord

(a) Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

(b) Acts 10:36 “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)”

iii. He is even over the heathen, those that rage.
e. **Power:**

i. Psa. 2:9 “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

ii. Christ, since He is supreme, has all power.

   1. Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
   2. Eph. 1:20-23 “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 things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   3. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

iii. Thus, it is foolish for anyone to oppose him. They are no match for God and his anointed.

4. **The Voice of Admonition**

a. Psa. 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, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

b. He appeals to those who oppose God and His plan. It is foolish and unworthy. Thus he appeals that they might properly:

c. **Exercise the mind:**

i. Psa. 2:10 “Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.”

ii. They need to do their own thinking and get information from the right source.

   1. That would be from God and his word.
   2. 2 Tim. 2.15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
   3. 1 Pet. 2.2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

iii. Too many today get their instruction from those who will not give proper counsel. What do we read and study?

iv. **Imagine and meditate** are from the same word

   1. Psa. 2:1 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”
   2. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

b. **Exert the will:**

i. Psa. 2:11 “Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

ii. They should determine to serve God with reverence rather than rebellion.

   1. The decision to no longer live for self (their liberty, cf., vs. 3 “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”)
   2. This is what repentance is all about.
   3. But to live for God.

   (a) This of course will lead to a change in life style.

   (b) When we make this determination the Christian life becomes easy.

iii. This type of service will produce joy.

   1. Phi. 4.4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   2. 1 Pet. 4.13 “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”
   3. Mat. 5.3-12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they that make peace: for they shall be called the children of God.”
which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

e. Express their submission:

i. Psa. 2.12 “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

ii. To kiss the Son is to show submission to Him rather than rebellion.

   (1) This is letting Christ be Lord of our lives.
   (2) They would never think of throwing off God’s restraints.
   (3) They would welcome those restraints, realizing they come from a loving God (Creator). God, the Creator, knows what is best for His creation, man.

iii. Worship means to kiss toward. Thus, this shows we are to worship God.

   (1) John 4.23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

   (2) Mat. 4.10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

Conclusion: The question of verse one would never have been asked if the people had listened to the voice of authority and accept the affirmation and admonition of Psa. 2:4-12.