

## PSALM 2

As Derek Kidner says in his commentary on Psalms, "Christianity shares with traditional Judaism the conviction that many passages in the psalms are Messianic: that is, predictions or foreshadowings of the Christ." The figure of the anointed King is introduced as early as Psalm 2 and indeed He is seen as one who is far more than a monarch of Israel. The word "Messiah" or "Christ" has the meaning of "anointed." Anointing implied consecration to high office (Leviticus 8:12), not only investing the anointed person with a holy status but also empowering him for his task (Psalm 89:20-29) since the outward rite of anointing was accompanied with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, wherever David or a Davidic king appears in the psalter (except where he is expressing failure to live up to his calling), he represents to some degree the Messiah. The New Testament often interprets the psalms in their Messianic references to be speaking directly of Jesus, God's revealed Messiah.

Psalm 2 is a psalm of Messiah with David being the historical King and Jesus being the ultimate King. Let's see what it says and what it means to us today.

Memorize Psalm 2:12. (I did it \_\_\_\_\_. I said it to \_\_\_\_\_.)

Review your memory verses from Psalms.

Read Psalm 2 five times. 1)\_\_\_\_ 2)\_\_\_\_ 3)\_\_\_\_ 4)\_\_\_\_ 5)\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Who wrote this psalm and how do you know? Read Acts 4:25-26 before you answer.

2. Although David's *name* is not mentioned here, read Psalm 2 again and note the ways it refers to him. Jot down the verse number by each. (Example - His anointed - verse 2)

3. Define *vain* as used here.

4. What are the actions and destiny of the evil nations? Note the verse from which you made your observation.

Actions

Destiny

5. How effective are the plots (verse 1)?

6. What is God's response to these plots?

7. What in this psalm lets you know that it is not the king and people that God scoffs at but rather the arrogance of their plans?

8. What is David's answer to the opposition against him as God's representative (verse 7 and following)?

9. How do you relate national and international crises to God? That is, what about Him must you remember? (Think how David did.)

10. What advice does the psalmist give the kings? Why?

Remembering that the Messianic psalms have both an historical subject (David) and a prophetic subject (Jesus), read Acts 4:25-28.

11. From this passage, which quotes Psalm 2:

a. Who is God's anointed?

b. Who plotted against him?

c. Who was in control of the situation?

12. Write a sentence or two telling what you've learned about God and how that can help you meet uproars or crises in your own life.

13. Notice that verse 3 tells how the kings and people want to break God's cords (chains) or the fetters He has on them. What are one or two words that describe this attitude?

14. Read Hosea 11:4 and Matthew 11:29-30. There will be times when we want to break away from God or from what He asks of us. (This is the attitude expressed in Psalm 2:3.) From the verses in Hosea and Matthew, what do you see about God that can draw you to Him with an accepting heart?
15. Notice that Psalm 1 *begins* by stating the blessedness of one who makes certain choices. Psalm 2 *ends* proclaiming the blessedness of all who make a choice. From these two psalms, tell how you can live in this blessedness God offers.
16. Now let's think:
- a. What is a refuge?
  - b. How does one "take refuge in God?"
  - c. What are some circumstances or concerns in your life today where you need a refuge?
17. Write a heartfelt prayer acknowledging who God is, what your needs are, and asking Him to be your refuge. And thank Him for being a safe place and protector for you, One who offers you a life of blessedness.