

The End-Time Crisis: God's Response to the Rage against Jesus (Ps. 2)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Psalm 2, King David prophesied that world leaders would oppose the leadership of Jesus, causing a global crisis that would reach its pinnacle in the generation of Jesus' return.
- B. Psalm 2 has four parts:
 1. *The kings' opposition*: Seeking to remove the influence of the Word from society (2:1-3)
 2. *The Father's response*: Exalting Jesus as King and confronting rebellion against Jesus (2:4-6)
 3. *Jesus' response*: Interceding in agreement with the Father's decrees (2:7-9)
 4. *David's exhortation*: Calling people to serve God in the fear of the Lord and joy (2:10-12)

II. THE KINGS' FIERCE OPPOSITION TO JESUS AND HIS LEADERSHIP (2:1-3)

- A. David prophesied that the nations would rise up in anger against Jesus' leadership (2:1-3), seeking to remove the influence of His Word from society (2:3). Many rulers and leaders in society—economic, educational, military, sports, media, etc.—will resist Jesus and His Word.

¹Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” (Ps. 2:1-3)
- B. These leaders will oppose the truth about Jesus and His definitions of salvation, love, purity, and justice. They will see God's Word in a negative light, as though it were *bonds* enslaving them and hindering “human potential,” and as *cords* binding them to His morality, godly ways, and truth. An unholy agenda is accelerating, as many attack God's commands and seek to remove His moral boundaries from society, including the sanctity of life, marriage, and sexuality.
- C. Before Jesus returns, both godliness and sin will reach their greatest heights in history, resulting in a falling away from the faith (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5). Thus, both light and darkness will increase at the same time (Isa. 60:1; Mt. 13:30, 39).

²³“In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [Antichrist] shall arise.” (Dan. 8:23)

¹The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...³forbidding to marry. (1 Tim. 4:1-3)
- D. Jesus gave more warnings about deception in the end times than about tribulation (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; Mk. 13:5-6, 22; Lk. 21:8; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1). Rage will escalate beyond leaders voicing opinions to *warring against God* using hate crimes, prison, and death against the Church.

*⁹“They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations...
¹¹Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” (Mt. 24:9-11)*

¹⁹And I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]. (Rev. 19:19)

III. THE FATHER'S RESPONSE: PROMISE OF REVIVAL AND JUDGMENT (2:4-6)

- A. David lets us know what the Father's response to the rebellious kings will be, declaring His purposes to magnify Jesus as King over the nations (v. 6) and distress the kings with judgment (v. 5). Jesus was enthroned in heaven at the resurrection and will be enthroned in Jerusalem when He returns. Sources of pressure in the nations include *Satan's rage, man's sin, the curse on creation, and God's shakings*—He judges rebellion and disciplines His people who compromise.
- ⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...⁵He shall speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” (Ps. 2:4-6)***
- B. The Father's message includes *openly demonstrating Jesus' power as King* and distressing the kings and leaders of society who are permanently settled in their rage against Jesus and His truth.
- ²⁸“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh [nations]...³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth...³¹before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.” (Joel 2:28-31)***
- ⁷“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations [Jesus].” (Hag. 2:7)***
- C. God's people are to be *faithful witnesses* of the truth about God. In His wrath He will speak to the leaders of society through His people. One primary characteristic of a false prophet is that they prophesy only blessing to people—even those who refuse God's leadership—without ever speaking of His judgments (Jer. 6:14; 8:11; 14:13-14; 23:16-22; Ezek. 13:9-10, 16; Mic. 3:5-6).
- ⁵...from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness...the ruler over the kings of the earth. (Rev. 1:5)***
- ¹⁶“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who...¹⁷continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You shall have peace...no evil shall come upon you.”’ (Jer. 23:16-17)***
- D. C. S. Lewis wrote of “resistance thinking” against popular trends that seek to make the gospel fit with the spirit of our age. We must speak the difficult and “offensive” themes of the gospel as well as the more popular ones. The Church's effectiveness lies in her calling to be *against the world, yet for it*. Os Guinness wrote of our call being both *world-affirming and world-denying*. When the Church neglects this dual stance, it results in cowardice, corruption, and decline.

IV. JESUS' RESPONSE IN INTERCESSION (2:7-9) AND DAVID'S EXHORTATION (2:10-12)

- A. Jesus responds with intercession that agrees with the Father's decrees (2:7-9). Jesus revealed Himself as the *Great Intercessor* who prays for His leadership to be openly displayed on earth.
- ⁷“I will declare the decree: The LORD [Father] has said to Me, ‘You are My Son...⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron.”’ (Ps. 2:7-9)***
- B. David exhorted leaders to serve (or fully engage with) God in the fear of the Lord (2:10-12). In context, this includes speaking God's message (v. 5-6) and engaging in prayer with Jesus (v. 8). *The Psalm 2 crisis requires a Joel 2 response, resulting in an Acts 2 outpouring of the Spirit.*
- ¹⁰Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry. (Ps. 2:10-12)***