

## ***Loving Jesus and Others as Persecution Increases (Psalm 2)***

### **I. THE MOST DRAMATIC TRANSITIONAL DECADE IN HISTORY (FROM 2020 TO 2030)**

- 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 love, joy, and the fear of God (2:10-12)
- C. 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). *Kings* speak of the heads of state; *rulers* include leaders in society—economic, educational, military, sports, media, etc.

***<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” (Ps. 2:1-3)***

1. They see God's Word in a negative light, as if it were *bonds*, enslaving them and hindering “human potential,” and as *cords* binding them to His morality, godly ways, and truth.
2. There is an unholy agenda that is accelerating in the nations to remove the Lord's moral boundaries from society, including the sanctity of life, marriage, and sexuality, along with raging against the authority of Scripture and the truth about Jesus and His plans for Israel.
3. ***Rage***: Their *rage* will escalate far beyond ridiculing God's people to *warring against God and His people* using hate crimes, economic penalties, prison, and death (Rev. 17:6; 19:19).

***<sup>9</sup>They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake...<sup>21</sup>There will be great tribulation, such as has not been... (Mt. 24:9, 21)***

***<sup>17</sup>...[Satan] was enraged with the woman [Israel], and he went to make war with...[those] who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:17)***

4. Kings have the authority to persecute using legislation, economics, military, and police forces.

***<sup>1</sup>“I will show you the judgment of the great harlot...<sup>2</sup>with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were drunk with...her fornication...<sup>5</sup>On her forehead a name was written...Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots...***

***<sup>6</sup>I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints...the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:1-6)***

<sup>3</sup>For all the nations have drunk of the wine...of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through ...her luxury.” <sup>4</sup>I heard a voice...saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues...<sup>8</sup>for strong is the Lord God who judges her. <sup>9</sup>“The kings of the earth who committed fornication...with her will weep... (Rev. 18:1-9)  
<sup>19</sup>I saw the beast, the kings of the earth...make war against Him [Jesus]. (Rev. 19:19)

## II. THE FATHER’S RESPONSE: PROMISE OF REVIVAL AND JUDGMENT (PS. 2:4-6)

- A. The Father’s response is to declare His purposes to magnify Jesus as King over the nations (v. 6) and to distress the kings with judgment (v. 5). Jesus was enthroned *in heaven* at the resurrection and will be enthroned *in Jerusalem* when He returns. God’s judgments are to remove what hinders love.

<sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens shall laugh...<sup>5</sup>He shall speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure: “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 or judging the kings and leaders of society who are *permanently settled* in their rage against Jesus and His truth. The message of judgment is the truth that is opposed most in the nations and the Church. In His wrath He will speak to the leaders of society *through His people*. God’s people are to be *faithful witnesses* of the truth about God. One primary characteristic of a false prophet is that they prophesy only blessing without ever speaking of His judgments (Jer. 23:16-22; Ezek. 13:9-16).

## III. JESUS’ RESPONSE IN INTERCESSION (PS. 2:7-9)

- A. Jesus responds with intercession that agrees with the Father’s decrees (2:7-9). Jesus reveals Himself as the *Great Intercessor* who prays for His authority to be fully displayed on earth. He will lead the Church worldwide in prayer for the greatest release of His power and glory in history.

<sup>7</sup>...The Lord [Father] has said to Me...<sup>8</sup>“Ask of Me and I will give You the nations...” (Ps. 2:7-8)

- B. Both light (glory) and darkness (sin) will increase in the end times (Isa. 60:1-2). Before Jesus returns, the Church will see the greatest harvest and the greatest prayer movement in history. The greatest corporate miracle in human history is the transformation of the end-time Church from the majority walking in compromise to walking together as mature family and as a prepared Bride.

<sup>22</sup>“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one...” (Jn. 17:22)

## IV. DAVID’S EXHORTATION (PS. 2:10-12): LOVING JESUS AND OTHERS

- A. David exhorted people to *serve* or fully engage with God with love, joy, and in the fear of God; to *rejoice* or be grateful for the privilege of being allowed to participate with God; to *kiss the Son*, which is to pay homage to the King with obedient love, flowing from affection, not merely duty.

<sup>11</sup>Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son... (Ps. 2:11-12)

<sup>44</sup>“...love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who...persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be sons of your Father...” (Mt. 5:44-45)

- B. It is a great privilege to endure persecution for standing with Jesus (Lk. 6:22-23; Acts 5:41).

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:18)

<sup>17</sup>For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory... (2 Cor. 4:17)