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Subject Psalm 2.

This Psalm of 12 verses divides into four sections each of three verses. In each section a different person speaks.

vv 1-3: The nations of men speak of rebellion

vv 4-6: God tells of His King

vv 7-9: The Son declares His Authority

vv 10-12: The Spirit pleads for men to bow

The picture in the opening verses is that of nations joining together in an attempt to defy God. It is true of the present day as nations will pass legislation which permits what is contrary to the Word of God but deny the liberties of those who seek to want uphold the truth. This fulfils the Scripture where we read of men who call evil good and good evil (Isa 5:20).

There are two answers as to why men do this. The first is at a national level, the world system lies in wickedness (or the wicked one) (1 John 5:19). There is a power behind the thrones of men, but they are not conscious of this. When God created man, He gave him dominion. Man gave this to Satan when he chose to listen to him and disobey God as recorded in Genesis 3. At that time, sin entered the world, death by sin (Rom 5:12), but also man gave dominion to Satan. The world is in Satan's hands for now, but there is a supreme authority.

When the Lord Jesus was baptised, He was silent (Matt 3). Everyone else had to confess their sins, but He had none to confess. He was no ordinary man; he was born of a virgin and therefore was not related to Adam. He is Divine, Israel's Messiah. He was tested in the wilderness to prove that He was without sin (Matt 4:1-17). In one of the temptations, He was offered the kingdoms of the world if He would bow to Satan. Satan wanted Him to acknowledge his right. The Lord never denied it at the time, but He has absolute right to this authority ultimately. Governments may think that they are directing the course of events, but Satan is preparing the scene for his man. This man will be only revealed after God has completed His Man. The Church is the Body of Christ, and when this is complete, the church will be taken and Satan's man can be released.

The second reason for men to act as they do is due to the individuals who make up the nations. It is not just nations at large who rebel, it is the individuals who make up the nations. We are all guilty of rebellion against God. We all have a sinful nature which is biased against obedience to His will. In the garden, the devil concentrated on the one thing that God had forbidden rather than the many blessings that He had given. The same is true today. His lie is that God will take away if we submit to Him, but the truth is that God only takes away the evil. He removes the bondage to give us perfect liberty. Satan suggests that obedience is to lose liberty but the reality is that rebellion leads to broken lives and bondage to bad habits that cannot be broken.

What is the response of God?

He laughs, or makes sport. He will hold them in derision. He has appointed a day of reckoning when men will be called to account (Acts 17:31). He will not move that day. People may mock, but it does not alter the fact that He has set His time. There are two certainties:-

The Lord will come to take believers home to heaven. The guarantee is that He is already there.

When the believers go to heaven, God will begin to deal in judgment with the world. At first, men will blame what they see on Global warming or other natural phenomena, but eventually they will have to acknowledge that God is working. There will be earthquakes and cities destroyed (Rev. 16). When the world is reduced to a wreck and Satan thinks he is about to accomplish his plan against the people of God, the Lord will return and the prophecies will be fulfilled when He reigns in righteousness and peace.

Men want peace and right, but they have crucified the only man who can bring this about. When God speaks of this He speaks as if it were an established fact even though it is still in the future. It demonstrates that God and men are in direct opposition. The challenge comes to each of us, "Whose side am I on?" We are either alongside those who cried "crucify" or we are prepared to enthrone Him as Lord of our lives. The Gospel is a Divine command to repent (Acts 17:30). Obedience will bring deliverance from sins. We must acknowledge that God has spoken. In Philippians 2 v5-8, we read of the enormity of the stoop that the Lord took when He came to earth, but this is followed by exaltation (v 9-11). Every knee shall bow, but we must choose how and when we bow. We can bow now and come into the salvation that He offers. If not, then we will be forced to bow in the day of reckoning and face the wrath of God and eternal judgment.

The Lord speaks. When Queen Elizabeth was crowned, she read a public declaration of her right to the throne. These verses (7-9) are the public declaration by the Son of God of His right to reign over all the earth. The seal of everything is in the resurrection of Christ, an indisputable fact of history, and His presence in glory now. This was the message that Paul preached (2 Tim 2:8). 1 Corinthians 15 makes clear the fact of His resurrection and its implication. He is able, willing and mighty to save all who come to God by Him. He will rule in righteousness over the ends of the earth for 1000 years.

The Pleading of the Spirit – "Be wise". This is a call to consider the facts that have been set out and recognise that the only sensible option is to bow the knee and cry for mercy. The result of this is eternal life. To refuse is to face eternal judgment.

The facts are that the world faces the wrath and judgment of God when the Lord comes in power and glory. The only escape is to enthrone Him in our heart now.

"What think ye of Christ?" - Is He worthy to rule or will you say, "I will not have this Man to reign over me"