Psalm 2 — Song of the Son

1.0 Psalms 1 and 2

1.1 Psalm 1 begins with a beatitude (1:1); Psalm 2 ends with a beatitude (2:12).

1.2 Psalm 1 contrasts the righteous and the sinner; Psalm 2 contrasts a rebellious world and the righteous Son.

1.3 “Meditates” in Psalm 1:2 and “plot” in Psalm 2:1 are from the same Hebrew word (hagah).

1.4 In Psalm 1 the wicked are blown away like chaff; in Psalm 2 the wicked are broken in pieces like pottery.

1.5 In Psalm 1 the righteous one is like a tree planted beside streams of water; in Psalm 2 the Righteous One is set on the holy Mount Zion.

1.6 Piety in Psalm 1 is measured by one’s meditation on the written Word of God; piety in Psalm 2 is measured by one’s adoration of the Son, the living Word of God.

1.7 In Psalm 1 “the way of the ungodly shall perish” (1:6); in Psalm 2 the ungodly are to “kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way” (2:12).
2.0 Reading Psalm 2 (NKJV)

2:1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?

2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

2:3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”

2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The LORD shall hold them in derision.

2:5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

2:6 “Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”

2:7 “I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’”

2:10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

2:11 Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

3.0 Outline of Psalm 2

I. The World Conspires against Their King (2:1-3)
II. The Father Confirms His King (2:4-6)
III. The Father Confirms the Son (2:7-9)
IV. The World Contemplates the Son (2:10-12)
4.0 Psalm 2 and the New Testament

4.1 Psalm 2:1 – Revelation 11:18

4.2 Psalm 2:1-2 – Acts 4:25-26

4.3 Psalm 2:2 – Revelation 19:19

  John 1:49
  Acts 13:33
  Hebrews 1:5; 5:5

4.5 Psalm 2:8 – Hebrews 1:2

4.6 Psalm 2:8, 9 – Revelation 2:26-27

4.7 Psalm 2:9 – Revelation 12:5; 19:15

4.8 Psalm 2:11 – Philippians 2:12

5.0 The King of Psalm 2

5.1 Is he David?
  • 2 Samuel 7:14
  • 2 Samuel 10

5.2 Is he Solomon?
  • 1 Chronicles 17:13-14; 22:10

5.3 Is he Ahaz?
  • Isaiah 7; 2 Chronicles 28

5.4 Is he Messiah?
  • A universal spiritual and political insubordination: As subjugated vassals, the nations and their kings rebel against and conspire against the LORD and His “anointed” (= messiah) – Psalm 2:1-3.
  • The wrath of God is associated with the enthronement of the king – 2:4-6.
  • Universal dominion and judgment is associated with the Son – 2:7-9.
Spiritual service and fear of the LORD together with submission to the Son are demanded of the world’s leaders – 2:10-12.

Spiritual blessing is granted to all who “put their trust” in the Son – 2:12.

Is any of the above possible with regard to any historical king of Israel who reigned in Jerusalem?

6.0 Application

6.1 Singing Psalm 2

He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

6.2 Praying Psalm 2

• Lord, put down rebellion—even in my own heart (vv. 1-3).

• Thank You for providing a King for Your people (v. 4).

• God, we praise You for sending Your Son to be Messiah (v. 7).

• Help me serve You, Lord, with reverential awe and with rejoicing (v. 11).

• Father, thank You for giving refuge to those who trust in You (v. 12).

• “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” – Revelation 22:20