

Psalm 2-3 – Thursday, June 7th, 2018

Psalm 2 -- 1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The 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." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He 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." 7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 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.

- Couple of thoughts here on Psalm 2, the first of which has to do with who wrote it, how we know who wrote it and why they did.
- We know from the Book of Acts of all places, this was a Psalm written by none other than David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel.
- Perhaps more importantly is why it was written, which I believe was for the encouragement of those who are under persecution.

Acts 4:25-31 - 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- The second thought has to do with something we talked about at the beginning of our study in the Book of Psalms last week.
- Namely, that of the entirety of the book being, really the entirety of scripture being about the Savior of the world Jesus Christ.
- Woven throughout the fabric of this Psalm are references to Jesus as the Messiah, particularly verse 7, quoted in Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:5 - For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?

- One more thing before we move on to Psalm 3, and it has to do with verses six through eight concerning God's holy hill of Zion.
- It's believed that this is a reference to the Kingdom Age, also known as the Millennium, which is after the seven-year tribulation.
- In verse five we also have a reference to the tribulation period when God will pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world.

Psalm 3 -- A Psalm of David When He Fled from Absalom His Son. 1 LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah

- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me as we work our way through this particular Psalm, as it deals with a very important matter.
- Specifically, that of this notion that I've sinned so terribly, that God somehow is unwilling to forgive me or be merciful to me.
- I would suggest this was the plight of Job, who believed that God was against him and that there was no help from God for him.

Charles Spurgeon - "If all the trials which come from heaven, all the temptations which ascend from hell, and all the crosses which arise from the earth, could be mixed and pressed together, they would not make a trial so terrible as that which is contained in this verse. It is the most bitter of all afflictions to be led to fear that there is no help for us in God."

- What adds insult to injury is it comes from those who rise up against you and falsely accuse you that God is through with you.
- Again, like with Job's three so-called friends falsely accusing and even cursing Job, Shimei did the same to David as he fled.
- But God – as only He can and always does, has the final word when it comes to His servants, such that they will be vindicated.

- Be that as it may, we're introduced to this word, "Selah," which appears 71 times in the Psalms, and it's meaning is debated.
- Some suggest that it means "division," others suggest weighed," and yet others say it carries the idea of both pause and praise.
- I would suggest that it means all of the above, in the sense that we have a dividing point to pause, weigh, consider then praise.

3 But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. 4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah

- The first word in verse three changes the entire complexion of the perilous situation in which David finds himself in the midst of.
- What he's saying here is that everyone is against him, falsely accusing him, even cursing him, but God is a shield about him.
- Notice in verse three that God is the One who lifts up his head and that He does so because David has made God all his glory.

F.B. Meyer - "Oh, my soul, hast thou made God thy glory? Others boast in their wealth, beauty, position, achievements: dost thou find in God what they find in these?"

- It's important to understand that God being a shield for David, and lifting up the head of David, was in response to his prayer.
- In verse four David says that he had cried out to the Lord with his voice, and that God had hearkened unto the voice of his cry.
- The reason I mention this is because I have experienced this in my own life when I've come to the Lord praying and weeping.

5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around.

- Here we're told that David was actually able to get some sleep and it seems that he was also able to wake up being refreshed.
- This because God had sustained him, by granting him this much needed sleep so he wouldn't be fearful of those against him.
- One of the things I'm learning in my life is the importance of getting a good night sleep, without which, we're unable to function.

Psalm 127:2 - In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.

7 Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah

- This particular prayer on David's part has been the source of some difficulty by virtue of how one might interpret it at first read.
- By that I mean, one can get the impression David is praying and asking God to break the teeth of his enemies in their mouth.
- While it can certainly appear that this is what he's praying, it's actually a metaphor of sorts speaking to God granting the victory.

Psalm 58:6 - Break their teeth in their mouth, O God! Break out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!

Of this one commentator wrote, "This vivid metaphor is also used in Psalm 58:6. It speaks of the total domination and defeat of the enemy. David looked for protection in this Psalm, but more than protection—he looked for victory. It wasn't enough for David to survive the threat to the kingdom. He had to be victorious over the threat, and he would with the blessing of God. ...He wasn't only concerned for God's hand upon himself, but upon all God's people. He didn't pray for preservation and victory in the trial with Absalom just for his own sake, but because it was best for the nation."