



Why Do the Nations Still Rage?

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Psalm 2 – Coronation/Enthronement Psalm, Royal Psalm, Messianic Psalm, Judgment Psalm
with Psalm 1, this psalm provides an introduction to entire Psalms collection

Why 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.”

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision [contemptuous ridicule]. ⁵Then 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. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will give *You* the nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

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, and you perish *in* the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.

Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

1. To Our Nation - Happy 150th Birthday: Canada begins its 151st Year TODAY -

Canadian’s Strong Reputation (measures of position in world):

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_rankings_of_Canada
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/canada-has-the-worlds-best-reputation-global-survey-shows-1.3155500>

National Anthem: O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all thy sons command. With glowing hearts we see thee rise, The True North strong and free! From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free! O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Parliament Building Peace Tower: About 15 embedded scriptural inscriptions. For example, on East window: **He shall have dominion also from sea to sea** (Psalm 72:8) on South window: **Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.** (Psalm 72:1), and on West window: **Where there is no vision, the people perish** (Proverbs 29:18).

2. A Relevant New Testament Episode: Peter and John Proclaim the Good

News (Acts 4:1-29)

- As they teach about resurrection they are seized and jailed
- **Their message:** ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humankind by which we must be saved.”
- **Observers struggled** to reconcile the healing that had taken place – undeniable evidence. Yet, Peter and John are ordered to stop talking about Jesus

²³**On their release**, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. **“Sovereign Lord,”** they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You 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? ²⁶The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.** ²⁷Indeed *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. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

4. Still Raging and Plotting: Roots and fruits of rebellion, indifference, ignorance, arrogance, and independence from God - Seemingly, everywhere you look TODAY - see Madeleine Albright’s *The Mighty and the Almighty* (2006).

5. Coronation and Royal Psalm: Historical context: David for son Solomon (2 Ki 11:12; 2 Sam 7:14). Much tension amongst nations and internally (attempted coup by Adonijah, 1 Ki 1). Divine context: Depiction of relationship between God the Father and his Son (v

7). It's about the Father's sovereignty (v 6), the Son's identity (vs 2,6), and the Son's inheritance and mandate (vs 8,9). It's also about the anger of both Father and Son towards all who oppose them (vs 5,12). Sustained opposition to the authority of Father and Son usually arises from ignorance, arrogance, or the strong desire for independence (v 3). Notice too how this psalm is used in Acts 4:23–29.

6. An Unpacking of Psalm 2

a. **Human Restlessness and Rebellion** (1-3) Tumultuous mob rioting, global conspiracy (Ps 38:12; Prov 24:2; Is 59:3, 13)

- **Voice of the Nations:** Determined, unified, choosing

b. **Divine Response to the Futility of Rebellion** (4-9): Sits (4), Speaks (5), Affirms (6, 7) Christ's rule (8), Judges (9) (Habbakuk 2:13)

- **Voice of the Father** (4-6): laughs, rebukes from His displeasure, declares
- **Voice of the Son** (7-9): His dominion (Heb 1:1-6)

c. **Urgent, Yet Gracious, Warning and Invitation** (10-12): Admonishment to surrender (10) and Assurance

- **Voice of the Spirit:** The blessing of grace to be wise, well instructed, to serve, to rejoice, to kiss the Son and to put trust in Him, our refuge and Peace.

7. The Essence of Message:

Prayer: Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness (Acts 4:29).

As nations tend to decline through rebellion and indifference and to cycle in their faithfulness and disobedience to God, Christians are encouraged to pray, align and attune to the sovereign God Over All – to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. We trust and obey, praying, as ambassadors of reconciliation: “God keep our land – glorious and free.” We are to bring Him glory through our individual and collective faithfulness. We are made to be free from the tyranny of independence from God and free from brash arrogance and passive indifference that characterizes the enraged and the rebellious. We are to be salt and light, to be wise in our service and influence on the nations. We pray with the faithful remnant that His kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven and that the whole earth would declare His glory and know the blessing of His love.