



**“I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee” (Psalm 2:7).**

## **God’s Son**

**Central Truth:** Loyal devotion is due the divine Son of God.

**L296. Date:** October 1987. **Text:** Psalm 2:1-12.

**Topic:** Christ: Nature of; **Doctrine:** Studies In.

Have you noticed how some passages of Holy Scripture seem to stand out above other portions? Such a passage is Psalm 2. It is not that this psalm is more important than any other, but rather that it speaks so beautifully of our Lord Jesus Christ. That makes it precious to a Christian.

Psalm 2 is a royal psalm. It is a description of the king of national Israel as the adopted son of God. But more, it is a prophetic description of the only begotten Son of God who is our King.

Psalm 2 is a messianic psalm. It is a description of the Messiah King who would govern the kingdom of God. We recognize the promised Messiah as Jesus of Nazareth. So Psalm 2 is an announcement of the person and ministry of our Lord.

Psalm 2 is a devotional psalm. It tells us of Him whom we trust, love, and serve. Since it speaks of our beloved Lord, we rejoice in reading and meditating on it.

### **I. HIS OPPOSITION (Psalm 2:1-4)**

**A. God's Son was opposed from the beginning.** That was the reason that the devil deceived the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden. That was why there would be warfare between good and evil until one day the serpent would bruise the heel of the Son of the woman and the Son would bruise the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). Spiritual warfare is nothing new. It has raged since the early stages of human history.

**B. God's Son has been opposed throughout human history.** The devil is the enemy of mankind. After the promise of God that a Son born to a woman would bruise the devil's head, Satan has sought to destroy the human race in sin. Since God identified the nation of Israel as the people through whom He would give the Savior, the devil has tried to destroy that nation. Spiritual warfare is not a recent entrant into human experience. It has continued through all the ages of human history. '

**C. God's Son was opposed in His incarnate ministry.** At first, a king moved by the devil sought to kill the child in His infancy (Matthew 2:13-18). He sought to direct Him out of the will of God in the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). He stirred up wicked men to move in hatred against the Christ during His time on earth (John 15:22-25). Finally, our Lord was crucified by the hands of wicked men (Luke 23). The whole of His life on earth was a continuing conflict with the devil.

**D. God's Son is opposed today in the person of His people.** Jesus warned that the hatred of the unregenerate world would be directed against those who trust and serve Him (John 15:16-21). The devil's opposition to you as a Christian is not against you personally but against Him whom you trust and serve. The sufferings which you bear in your body are the Lord's. What a reason for faithful endurance! (Read I Peter 4:13, 14.)

## **II. HIS ANOINTING (Psalm 2:2)**

Psalm 2:2 speaks of the LORD and His anointed. That is a term applied often to the Savior, God's only begotten Son.

**A. He is anointed in His name.** The Hebrew word for anoint is *mashach*, and the Greek word is *chrío*. That is why the Savior is called Messiah in the Old Testament and Christ in the New Testament. He is "the Anointed One." In Daniel 9:25 He is called "*the Messiah the Prince*." In John 1:41 He is called "*the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ*." We call Him by the titles, Christ, Jesus Christ, or Lord Jesus Christ. His is the name above every name (Philippians 2:9.11).

**B. He is anointed in His person.** Recall the baptism of Jesus at the hands of John the Baptist. He was immersed in the waters of the Jordan River. When He arose from the waters there was a spectacular manifestation as God showed himself: "*The heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*" (Matthew 3:16, 17). What happened? Acts 10:38 reports, "*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power*." He is the

Anointed One, the Christ.

**C. He is anointed in His ministry.** Look at the unique ministry of Jesus. He spoke with power. He healed with power. He ministered with mercy. He forgave with tenderness. And He explained it by saying, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised”* (Luke 4:18). It was possible because God had anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power (Acts 10:38). There is no explanation of the ministry of Jesus other than that the power of God was on Him.

### **III. HIS KINGDOM (Psalm 2:6-11)**

The lesson text pictures Him as king in spite of the rage of the heathen and their desire to cast off His sovereignty. Because His kingship is so sure, the Lord laughs at the opposition of the unbelievers. He has been set upon God's holy hill of Zion as evident king. He has been declared as God's king by the divine decree. He has been promised all the earth as His possession, and he will rule with total authority. His place as king inspires reverence and rejoicing before Him.

**A. His kingdom was foretold.** Isaiah wrote, *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder. . . . Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end”* (Isaiah 9:6, 7). Jeremiah predicted, *“A King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth”* (Jeremiah 23:5). (See also Daniel 7:13,14.)

No wonder the announcement of Jesus' birth carried the promise, *“The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: . . . and of his kingdom there shall be no end”* (Luke 1:32, 33). No wonder His ministry was announced with, *“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2). No wonder Jesus spoke so often of the coming kingdom (Matthew 16:28). It was all in preparation for the day of the glad announcement, *“He is Lord of lords, and King of kings”* (Revelation 17:14).

**B. His kingdom was recognized.** Those who knew Him best testified. *“Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel”* (John 1:49). Even the crowds recognized His kingship and welcomed Him into Jerusalem with the cry, *“Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord”* (John 12: 13).

**C. His kingdom was explained.** Some did not understand Jesus'

teachings concerning the kingdom of God. They thought it meant the exaltation of national Israel as ruler of Gentile nations. Jesus explained, “*My kingdom is not of this world*” (John 18:36). His is a spiritual rule in human hearts. One enters the kingdom of God when He receives eternal life through personal repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore the place of honor in His kingdom is not related to power but to humility, not to being served but to serving others. You are in His kingdom now if God reigns in your heart.

**D. His kingdom will be manifested.** There will come a great day when nations will stand before the Lord to be judged and separated as a shepherd separates his sheep from his goats. There will come a great day when all things that offend will be cast out of the kingdom of God. There will come a day when Jesus will reign on this earth for one thousand years with absolute authority, and righteousness will mark all human affairs. There will come a great day when the announcement will be made, “*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*” (Revelation 11:15). Hallelujah!

#### **IV. HIS JUDGESHIP (Psalm 2:12)**

The exercise of kingly authority involves the ministry of judgment. God's dear Son will approve the right and punish the wrong. His judgment is an indication of His righteousness. Do not be surprised when He is declared Judge as well as King.

**A. His judgeship was prophesied.** “*He cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth*” (Psalm 96:13). What Jesus does in judgment is the act of God in judgment. “*The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son*” (John 5:22). “*It is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead*” (Acts 10:42).

**B. His judgeship was described.** As to time, He “*shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom*” (II Timothy 4:1). He will judge people at His return.

As to place, there will be two parts to His judgment. The saved will stand before “*the judgment seat of Christ*” to be judged for rewards (Romans 14:10). The unsaved will stand before the great white throne judgment to be judged for punishment (Revelation 20:11-15).

As to scope, all will be judged. God has set a day when “*he will judge the world*” (Acts 17:31). “*Before him shall be gathered all nations*” (Matthew 25:32). “*I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God*”

(Revelation 20:12). None will escape that day of accounting.

As to person, the Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge. *“God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ”* (Romans 2:16). There is no conflict with His being Savior now and Judge then. He is Lord and King. All authority to save or to destroy rests in Him.

## V. HIS TRUSTWORTHINESS (Psalm 2:12)

*“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him”* (Psalm 2:12).

**A. There is the goodness of God in Him.** He has great scores of goodness reserved for those who trust Him (Psalm 31:19). One who comes to Him experiences personally that God is good (Psalm 34:8). You can experience His goodness to you when you trust Him (Nahum 1:7).

**B. There is the mercy of God in Him.** In fact, mercy surrounds the person who trusts in God (Psalm 32:10). The believer can say with assurance, *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”* (Psalm 23:6). Mercy is love in action toward one in need. What a privilege it is to receive His mercy. *“The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him”* (Psalm 103:17).

**C. There is the protection of God in Him.** *“Whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe”* (Proverbs 29:25). Here is why: *“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”* (Deuteronomy 33:27). There could be no greater assurance of protection than that. Rejoice in Him! **D. There is the peace of God in Him.** The believer enjoys perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3), blessed peace (Psalm 29:11), protective peace (Philippians 4:7), and divine peace (John 14:27). It is the peace which passes all understanding which God himself gives to those who trust Him. Enjoy it.

What a beautiful picture is given of our dear Lord in Psalm 2. Behold your King! Hear Him. Trust Him. Serve Him. Speak to others of Him. He is the Christ of God, your Lord and Savior.

## Questions

1. What is the relationship of Messiah and Christ?
2. Why has God's Son been opposed through human history?
3. How might people oppose Him today?
4. What is meant by the statement that Jesus was “anointed” of God?
5. How does Luke 4:18 relate anointing to ministry in Jesus?

6. In what sense is Jesus now a king?
7. In what way will He be a king in the future?
8. What do you know about Jesus as Judge?
9. How is Jesus a refuge for you?
10. What should be your response to the King set forth in Psalm 2?