

PSALM 2 – WHO IS CHRIST TO YOU?

INTRODUCTION

Anger against God has been the bane of our society since the Fall. Man refuses to humble himself before the Almighty. He denies His existence and foolishly believes that God will cease to exist because of it. How foolish is man. It would be easier for him to close his eyes and pretend that the sun does not exist, than to think God out of existence! Man's foolishness knows no bounds until he destroys himself in the final analysis. The arrogance of man is self-destructive. Man, in his sinful state and blind to his own faults, has been clenching his fists toward the heavens, against God for centuries. God has lovingly, and with much longsuffering, borne with man's insolence. He has every right as the Creator God to destroy sinful man at any time but He stayed His sovereign hand. He sent Jesus Christ His only begotten Son to die on the cross for man's sins.

Man can now be saved from his state of condemnation and not die in his sins. The only Saviour of the world is Jesus Christ who came to die for man's sins. God accepted all that Christ has done for us by raising Him from the dead on the third day. Man's perspective of Jesus Christ will determine his ultimate destiny forever.

1. HEATHEN'S PERSPECTIVE – v 1-3 – This is the perspective of arrogance and ultimate foolishness. The heathen rage even as they imagine vain things. They think they are very wise because they have invented certain things such as space travel and jet planes. They regard this world as very "advanced" in every field of science and technology and medicine. However, God sums them all up as vanity! Powerful men like the kings of the earth and rulers stand united and steadfastly against the LORD and His anointed. The LORD's anointed (Ma-shiy-ach) is none other than the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Man thinks that democracy, which is majority rule, is the solution to all of life's problems. This solution is being bantered around the world today as the hallmark of freedom. However, when man is in a great sinful state, the majority will surely make a wrong decision. In Psalm 2, this powerful majority dare to challenge God. They boldly declare, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." (v 3) The bands of God and Christ are the very perfect Word of God. For the Word of God binds sinful man's ways and heart! He knows it and desires to break God's Word and throw it as far away as possible! Now Christians can understand the many attacks levelled against God's perfect Word throughout the ages! This is the hallmark of the heathen!
2. GOD'S PERSPECTIVE – v 4-9 – This is God's perspective of Jesus Christ! The contrast is very vivid to say the least. The following is a summary of the main points in these verses.
V 4-5 – GOD'S VICTORY – God sits in the heavens and looks down upon sinful man, laughing at his stupidity! Man is like the ants to God. The LORD will have man in derision i.e. to make him speak unintelligibly. Man with all his "wisdom is like a

babbler to God. His attacks against God are useless. It is like a baby chiselling away the Rock of Gibraltar with a toy hammer! When God is angry, and He speaks to man in His wrath, man would be greatly troubled. God will soundly punish him as the Book of Revelation has revealed. The earth will be destroyed together with all the evil men, women, and children. There will be no exception!

V 6 – CHRIST WILL REIGN – The LORD will set Jesus Christ to reign forever on the Mount Jerusalem, also called the holy hill of Zion. This prophetic revelation is a warning to the heathen but offers great comfort to all believers. The justice of God will prevail in the end. No wicked man will escape God's perfect judgement. He might escape the justice of man on earth but never that of God! This truth brings great comfort and consolation to every believer who experiences persecution for his faith, and who defends the testimony of Christ and steadfastly upholds the perfect Word of God. He may pay the price with loss of freedom, and perhaps even his life. But he is confident that His Heavenly Father will prevail in the end.

V 7 – CHRIST WILL BE GLORIFIED – God will glorify His Son Jesus Christ whether sinful man likes it or not! This is God's absolute declaration. He did not ask anyone for permission when He created the world out of nothing. He did not consult man when He made the heavens, the earth, the seas and land. He is definitely not going to start now! God's righteous begotten Son will be globally declared for the whole world to bow and worship, and every tongue will have to confess Him as LORD! Man will have no choice but to do so submissively, just like the soldiers who fell prostrate to the ground when Jesus declared that He was the One they had come to arrest! To be the begotten Son of God does not mean that Christ had a beginning. What the phrase means is that Christ and God are of the exact same essence and power and glory that only God Almighty possesses!

V 8-9 – CHRIST WILL CONQUER – Christ will conquer according to the will of God. God will GIVE to Christ the heathens as His inheritance when Christ asks for them! The whole earth will become the boundaries of Christ's reign. There will be no exception to this sovereign rule of God! Christ's perfect justice will be judiciously meted out. Every sinful man will be rewarded according to his deeds. This means that Christ will break them with the rod of iron and dash them into pieces like a potter's vessel! Mankind will be condemned, for his good works are as filthy rags in the sight of the thrice holy God. The wicked will be sent to the Lake of Fire and there they will remain for all eternity!

3. CHRISTIAN'S PERSPECTIVE – v 10-12 – How do we see Christ? The heathens hate Christ. They demean Him and mock Him. This they did, and continue to do so when they hate and ignore God's perfect and holy Word. Conversely, God reveals to us His perspective of Christ. Now it is the believer's perspective that will be revealed. If he is mocking God or hypocritically pretending to be a believer, his attitude toward God's Word will expose him. Four imperatives are used in consecutive succession (be wise, be instructed, serve, and kiss) to drive home this point.

V 10 – BE TEACHABLE – The Bible says that the believer is one who is teachable. He loves the Word of God. He is wise in his obedience of God’s Word. The one who calls himself a Christian, and yet says that he is not interested in theology, is lying. Theology is the study of God. How could a truly born again believer not be interested in the study of God? King and judges are mentioned here because, if these men with their power, influence, and wealth are commanded to be wise and instructed, how much more the ordinary person! The believer is to be a student of God’s truth all the days of his life. Just as he will never stop drinking and eating physical food, he must never stop reading and studying God’s Word. The Bible is milk and meat to his spiritual soul, as water and food are to his physical body. The only time he stops eating and drinking is if he is dead. Likewise, a spiritually dead person has no interest for God’s truth!

V 11 – SERVE WITH FEAR AND REJOICE – With the feeding of the Word of God, the Christian will now serve his God. He cannot help it. This is what he wants to keep on doing all his life. To serve with fear and joy is true worship! The perfect notes sung cannot measure true worship on the Lord’s Day; it is the life of holiness lived from Monday to Saturday! He who lives for Christ with the fear of God in his heart has great joy. He does not live for money or for the pleasures of this life. He does not live for his family or for himself. He lives only for Christ, his newfound Saviour and Lord and his God! This gives him the greatest joy and pleasure. He rejoices with trembling. He fears God and reveres Him all his days!

V 12 – TRUST AND LOVE GOD – To kiss someone in the Middle East at the time of writing is to show honour and utmost respect. Matthew Poole concurs with this observation in his explanation of the meaning of the word “kiss”: “in token of your subjection and adoration; whereof this was a sign among the Eastern nations, as is manifest both from Scripture, as 1Sa 10:1; 1Ki 19:18; Ho 13:2, and from heathen authors. Submit to his person and government.” [Swordsearcher 6.0] Anyone who does not show respect to the King of kings and LORD of lords will surely face God’s judgement. All God needs to do is to kindle his wrath a little and sinful man will perish swiftly and immediately to Hell. God demands this of man because He is the Creator and man is the creature. Man has no choice, just as the clay has no say in the potter’s decision to make the kind of vessels his heart desires!

CONCLUSION – “Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him,” is the declared outcome of all those who put their faith and trust in Him. He who regards Christ with fear, adoration, trust, and love is to regard Christ as Lord and Saviour. With Christ as Lord and Saviour, God declares him blessed forever!