

Introduction:

Psalm 1 begins “Blessed is the man...” When we studied **Psalm 1**, we recognized it as the key to the rest of the psalms, in fact, the key to the rest of the Scriptures. All Scripture hearkens back to this psalm. But **Psalm 1**, in one sense, is incomplete. In fact, when we consider the last verse of **Psalm 2**, “Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (ESV), we discover that the psalmist continues the contrast of the blessed and the wicked. In **Psalm 1**, he told us of two people, two ways, and two outcomes. In **Psalm 2**, he tells us of two kings, or rather, two kinds of kings. There are the kings of the world, and there is the Lord’s King. **Psalm 2** makes us ask, who is your king?

Discussion:

I. The psalm in its original context.

- A. This psalm was written when there was a king on the throne of Israel. Either David or David’s heir dwelt in the house that God had established for them (cf. **II Samuel 7:8-16**). David was God’s son. God had made a covenant with him. He would rule and he would conquer (see **Psalm 89:19-37**). And that is exactly what David did. His life in the public sphere began when he defeated Goliath and continued as he became king and as God blessed him repeatedly with victory after victory after victory. He spread the borders of the kingdom bringing the surrounding Gentile nations into submission. See **II Samuel 8:1-14**.
- B. No doubt these kings thought they could defeat David. They conspired together to defeat him as the Syrians did with Hadadezer king of Zobah (**II Samuel 8:5**). But they plotted in vain (**Psalm 2:1**). God had set David in Zion (**Psalm 2:6**) and the Gentile kings could not dethrone him. David was God’s son and God would grant him the ends of the earth if he but asked (**Psalm 2:8**).
- C. David was God’s king. The other kings were mere upstarts. They had no blessing in themselves. In fact, if they wanted to be blessed, they needed to follow in the footsteps of Toi king of Hamath, who sent his son, Joram, to “kiss” God’s son, David, and pay homage to him (**II Samuel 8:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12**).
- D. There were two kings: God’s king, David, and the Gentile kings. These Gentile kings had two options. Either try to rule themselves and be destroyed, or let David rule them and be blessed.

II. The psalm in the New Testament.

- A. While the psalm had an original context in David, God’s son, God’s king, the New Testament demonstrates that David’s heir, Jesus, is the ultimate fulfillment of this psalm. At Jesus’ baptism God declared of Him, “This is my beloved Son,” (**Matthew 3:17**, ESV). On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter would honor Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, but God declared of Jesus, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (**Matthew 17:5**, ESV). Paul asserted that Jesus was the Son of God demonstrated by His resurrection (**Acts 13:32-33**; see also **Romans 1:4**). Even the angels are not greater than Jesus, for God never said to them that they were His begotten Son (**Hebrews 1:3-5**).
- B. And yet, Gentile kings plotted against Him. Herod and Pontius Pilate did exactly that in **Luke 23:1-25**. They thought they could mock Jesus, God’s Son and King. They thought they could beat Him. They thought they could crucify Him. They thought they could kill Him. They thought they could bury Him and be done with Him. But they were wrong. Jesus’ apostles even recalled these events in connection with **Psalm 2** in **Acts 4:24-31**. But all Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles, and the Jews accomplished was exactly what God wanted to happen in order to demonstrate the power of His Son in the resurrection. **Matthew 28:1-6** declares the amazing victory of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, God’s King. He could not be held in the ground. His soul would not be abandoned to Hades and His body would not see corruption (**Acts 2:27**).
- C. And while not the same Herod who tried Jesus in **Luke 23:6-12** (Herod Antipas), I can’t help but see the contrast between Jesus and Herod Agrippa I (brother-in-law and successor of Herod Antipas). In **Acts 12:1-5**, Herod decided to wage war against Jesus and His subjects. He executed James and then took Peter captive. However, he couldn’t contain Peter, who escaped by the hand of the Lord’s angel. Then in **Acts 12:20-23**, Herod was praised as a god by the people of Tyre and Sidon. Rather than deferring the praise, he accepted it. He was struck down by the angel of the Lord and eaten by worms. His soul was abandoned in Hades and his body saw corruption even before it entered the grave.

D. There were two kings. There was Jesus, God's Son, God's King, and there were Gentile kings. The Gentiles could try to conquer God and His anointed, but they plotted in vain (**Psalm 2:1**). All they could accomplish was what God wanted as He laughed at them (**Psalm 2:4**). And when they stood against God, He struck them down (**Psalm 2:7-9**). The only way to blessing for those Gentile kings was if they kissed the Son and took refuge in Him (**Psalm 2:10-12**). But they didn't and they came to ruin.

III. The psalm for us.

- A. Certainly, we live in a day and age where Gentile kings (presidents) make a mockery of Jesus Christ. They do not follow His Word, though ostensibly they submit to it. In reality, they are hostile to the will of God. Yes, we need to remember that for all their planning and plotting, they do so in vain. God will win. If they do not pay homage to the one, true King they will be judged in His wrath. We need to quit worrying about the future and simply take refuge in Jesus. However, I think we need to see this psalm in another light.
- B. We need to ask who will be our king? And let's face it; the choice is not really between Jesus Christ and earthly presidents or kings. The question is not will we follow Jesus or the President of the United States. The question is will we let Jesus be king in our lives, taking refuge in Him or will we try to be our own king. In **Judges 21:25**, the text says, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (ESV). We have that choice. Will we acknowledge that there is a King on God's holy hill or will we do what is right in our own eyes, crowning ourselves as kings in our small little worlds of self?
- C. We may chaff at Jesus' commands, plotting and planning to throw off what we see as His shackles, but we do so in vain (**Psalm 2:1**). If we think we can come up with a better way and prove God wrong, He simply laughs at us, though He is made sad by our refusal to accept His love (**Psalm 2:4**). Jesus is God's Son, God's King. If we wish to be happy, to be blessed, we need to honor Him, kiss Him, seek refuge in Him (**Psalm 2:10-12**). As the elders of **Revelation 4:9-11**, we must cast off our crowns. We must humble ourselves before Jesus. We must let Him lead us. That is where blessing lies.
- D. Amazingly enough, some refuse to submit to Jesus as king, but not from rebellion. Rather, they fear that they will not be able to bear up under His rule. They fear that they will somehow fail in serving Him. They think that they will not be good enough. Please, allow **Psalm 2** to disabuse you of this notion. The only mistake and failure is to continue trying to rule your own life. That is vain. That is folly. There is no blessing there. There is only cursing, destruction, and judgment. You may fear making a mistake while serving Jesus as your king, but there is no greater mistake than not making Jesus your king.
- E. Who is your king? Are you seeking first God's kingdom and righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**)? Or are you setting yourself up as king, refusing to submit to anyone but your own will, doing what is right in your own eyes? Blessing only comes if you take refuge in Jesus. He is the one way that leads to life and blessing. He is the one King.

Conclusion:

Psalm 1 told us of two people, the blessed and the wicked; two ways, God's and ours; and two outcomes, blessing and destruction. **Psalm 2** tells us of two kings, Jesus and us. **Psalm 1** tells us to have faith in God's way. **Psalm 2** tells us to have faith in God's King. All of Scripture is governed by these two psalms. In every passage we read, we have to ask whose way will we follow? We have to ask who will be king in our lives? Who is your king?