

Notes on Psalm 2

A Messianic psalm, one of the most-quoted psalms in the New Testament.

This is a haftorah for the Genesis 3 readings, probably reflecting the promise of a Deliverer who would crush the head of the serpents in Genesis 3:15.

Psalm 2:1 - Why do the heathen rage (or, rebel)?

Quoted in Acts 4:25 - Peter and John are arrested and then released. When they report back to the church gathering, Peter links this psalm to the authorities who crucified Jesus.

Acts 4:27-28 - For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

An even closer association comes from the next verse in Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:2 - The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...

See Luke 23:12 - Herod and Pilate, once enemies, become friends, and take counsel together to crucify the Lord.

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) is an earlier display of the “seed of the serpent” trying to conspire against God’s authority.

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

A tremendously important verse establishing Messiah as Son of God. “Begotten” is “yalad” in Hebrew, meaning to give birth to, become father to.

Acts 12:32-33 - And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

Hebrews 1:5 - For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Psalm 2:8 - Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

The “First Adam” was given dominion over the earth to subdue it as a caretaker and

steward. The Last Adam (Christ - 1 Cor. 15:45) receives that dominion as his inheritance, and will fulfill it completely at the end of time.

Revelation 11:15 - And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Psalm 2:9 - Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Jesus, speaking to the church at Thyatira, says this authority is given to us, now, to overcome false doctrine and idolatry and the internal voices trying to seduce us from obedience to Christ:

Revelation 2:26-27 - And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 19:15-16 - And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.