

## Christianity and Politics

Psalm 2

“Our Hope in King Jesus” – July 26, 2020

### Introduction

The good use of authority means life and flourishing for those living under it. Here's how David puts it in 2 Samuel 23:3–4 “The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.” Isn't that great? Good authority ('when one rules justly') is like rain that makes the grass to sprout: life, fruitfulness, and flourishing. So, when we need hope, it leaves us asking, *who's in charge?*

### Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

### Sermon Outline

- I. The world is in rebellion (vv1-3)
- II. The King is on His throne (vv4-9)
- III. The invitation of refuge (vv10-12).

### Read & Discuss

1) Read [Psalm 2:1-3](#)

When Peter quotes these verses in [Acts 4:25-29](#) he explains the 'Anointed' (Messiah) is Jesus, the kings and rulers were Herod and Pilate (who killed Jesus), and the nations were the people who encouraged it. They, like the kings of old thought freedom was found *outside* the rule of the Messiah. But like a fish out of water, people outside the rule of God *don't* flourish, they perish. This has been the lie we've been tempted with ever since Genesis 3. Being human, means we will serve somebody or something. The question is, which master will we choose: a loving God or sin that lies to us? Jesus, in John 8:34 said, “Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” What are ways you're tempted to believe that life and freedom is found outside of following God? If God's word feels 'burdensome,' how does *knowing* and *relying* on God help us (see 1 John 5:3). Remember what Jesus said in John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Additional Reading: Romans 6:12-14, 1 Peter 4:12-13

2) Read [Psalm 2:4-9](#)

Though nations rage, and kings and rulers set themselves against God, notice His response in v4: He laughs. He is not threatened or nervous. God the Father has set His Son on the throne (v7) and nothing, not even the gates of hell will thwart God's plans. It's one thing to *know* Jesus is King, another thing to believe and rest in His rule. With all the turmoil and chaos of a fallen world, how does truth make the 8-inch trip from head to heart? Psalm 1 & 2 belong together, acting as a gateway to the Psalms. Notice Psalm 1 begins with "*Blessed* is the man..." and Psalm 2 ends with "*Blessed* are all..." The bookends of blessing show how they fit together: we rest in God's *rule* (Psalm 2) as we meditate on God's word (Psalm 1). Take time to pray, asking God to "give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him" (Eph. 1:17).

Additional Reading: Psalm 76:10, Psalm 1

3) Read [Psalm 2:10-12](#)

God's King is on the throne – He will win and no plan can stand against Him. And yet, as God's heart is to rescue - John 3:17 "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Salvation comes not by running *from* Jesus, but taking refuge 'in Him' (note v12). How does His death and resurrection provide a refuge for those who trust in Him?

Additional Reading: 2 Peter 3:9, Ezekiel 18:33

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <b>Matthew 7:1-12 "Don't judge me!"</b>
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