

Subject: *The King Is Still on His Throne*

Scripture: *Psalms 2:1-12*

In these uncertain times, we can stand on firm ground knowing that Jesus Christ is King and He is on His throne. Last Sunday was a special day in Christian history celebrated every year and is called Reformation Day. In October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and thus began the Protestant Reformation. In the years preceding the Reformation, Luther was mainly studying two books of the Bible: Psalms and Romans. These two books radically changed the direction of his life. Steven Lawson said: “While Romans formulated Luther’s doctrinal convictions about the purity of the true gospel, Psalms gave him the courage to proclaim these truths fearlessly.”

The underlying truth of the Reformation was a firm belief in the sovereignty of God. He is in control of all things. Our text is a powerful reminder of this truth. It is a Messianic psalm (about Christ), a royal psalm (about Christ as King), a psalm of David (attributed to him in the prayer of the persecuted disciples in Acts 4:25-26), a unique psalm (referred to and quoted in the New Testament more than any other psalm), and a very encouraging psalm in troubled times. How good to know that our King is still on His throne.

The key to understanding this psalm is to know who is speaking. We hear four different voices: the voice of man (vs. 1-3); the voice of God the Father (vs. 4-6); the voice of God the Son (vs. 7-9); and the voice of the Holy Spirit (vs. 10-12).

MAN’S REBELLION (vs. 1-3)

This psalm begins with a question that expresses amazement. It describes the rebellion of nations and world leaders against God and Christ. What do they want? They want freedom from all restrictions and moral absolutes. Human beings unite and want to overthrow God and get rid of Him. The word “rage” is used to describe an angry mob rushing together. They imagine a vain thing, something empty and destined to fail. The word “imagine” is the same word used in *Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.* The godly person thinks on God and His Word. The ungodly person thinks of how he can rebel against God. This psalm describes how nations and their leaders unite and join together. We hear about the “New World Order,” but it’s not really new. Ever since Adam and Eve, man has rebelled and tried to get rid of God. All such plans to overthrow God are vain and destined to fail.

THE FATHER’S RESPONSE (vs. 4-6)

- God responds in laughter

When God sees and hears puny little man in his rebellion, He just sits back and laughs. This is not the laughter of joy and pleasure, but of mockery and contempt. Someone wisely observed: “If you want to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans.” God chuckles at the thought of man wanting to rebel and set aside his moral absolutes. “Lord” (vs. 4) is Heb. *Adonay*, used 55 times in Psalms meaning “the sovereign Lord who has ultimate authority, power, and rule.”

- God responds in anger

He says, “In spite of what you want or what you think, I have installed my King.” God

speaks in the past tense, as if it were already done. It's as good as done. This ultimately refers to the time when Jesus will sit on His throne in Jerusalem (my holy hill of Zion) and He will rule over the whole world. This is fulfilled in ***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.*

THE SON'S REIGN (vs. 7-9)

- The assurance of His reign

This is the decree of God the Father about His Son. A decree is not subject to change. A decree is not up for debate or vote. A decree is a decision that God makes, and He doesn't need our permission. It is not something that may happen, but something that must happen because God says so. The Father has stated His purpose concerning His Son: The first part of God's decree expresses God's special relationship with His Son ("Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee"). It is the only Old Testament reference to the Father/Son relationship within the Trinity. This relationship is eternal. This verse is quoted in the New Testament with reference to Christ's birth (Heb. 1:5) and also to His resurrection (Acts 13:33-34). Jesus was always the Son of God the Father, but He fulfilled His role as Son in space and time at His birth. This relationship was confirmed at His resurrection (Rom. 1:4). The decree is certain that Jesus will rule the nations, will inherit the nations, and will judge the nations. There is no question about His reign.

- The authority of His reign

No one can resist or reject His reign. Jesus will have no rivals and no rebels. When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came in meekness. When He comes again, He is coming in power. He came the first time as a suffering servant. He is coming again as a reigning ruler and He will rule with a rod of iron. His final judgment is compared to taking an iron rod and dashing pottery into pieces.

THE SPIRIT'S REMINDER (vs. 10-12)

In this closing section we see five commands. The Holy Spirit must be the speaker because He mentions the Lord (Father) and the Son; and He calls all people to consider their ways and their attitude toward Christ. It is the Holy Spirit's main business to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit's business to awaken and humble sinners and bring us to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. The Holy Spirit gives direct commands to all people on the earth and especially to leaders (kings and judges). The Holy Spirit pleads: "Don't get carried away with your authority, you earthly kings. Understand who is really in charge and submit to Him." Notice three main ideas in these commands:

- Be sensible (vs. 10)

"Be wise. Be instructed." The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- Be submissive (vs. 11-12)

“Kiss the Son” describes an act of humble submission, as a subject would lower himself. Instead of resisting God’s authority, men are commanded to humble themselves under Christ and surrender their lives to Him.

- Be saved (vs. 12)

“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” The phrase “put their trust” means to take refuge. This describes saving faith in Christ.

The Holy Spirit appeals to men on three levels: the mind, the emotions, and the will. Every person is free to choose, but he is not free to choose the consequences of his choice. The choices of this psalm are clear: rebel or submit. The consequences are also clear: God’s wrath or His blessing (condemnation or salvation). We can either bow to Christ’s authority or be broken by it. *1 Peter 5:5 God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

The most important choice is not whether we support Trump or Clinton, but whether we surrender to Jesus Christ.