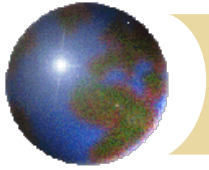


# *What is History All About?*

Psalm Two

*Robert C. Newman*

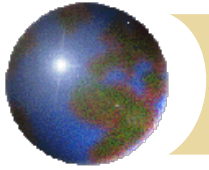




## *Introduction*

- Psalm 2 is a:
  - Dramatic reading
  - Short play
  - Cantata?
- It has a narrator, two characters, and a chorus.
- It divides nicely into four equal sections of three verses each.



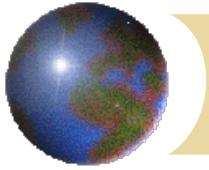


# *The Psalm as a Dramatic Reading*

❁ *Dramatis personae* - in order of appearance:

- ❁ The narrator
- ❁ The rebels
- ❁ God
- ❁ His Messiah

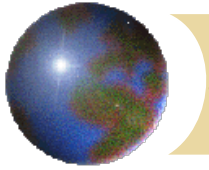




## *Strophe 1: Mankind's Attitude*

**Narrator:** Why are the nations in turmoil?  
Why do the people think futile thoughts?  
The kings of the earth take their stand,  
The influential ones sit in conference together  
Against the LORD  
And against His Messiah.

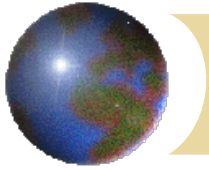
**Rebels:** Let us tear off their shackles  
And throw away their ropes!



## *Strophe 2: God's Reaction*

**Narrator:**      The One sitting in heaven laughs  
The LORD mocks them.  
Then He will speak to them in His anger  
He will terrify them in His wrath.

**God:**              Even I Myself will establish my King  
On Zion, my holy mountain!



## *Strophe 3: Messiah's Commission*

**Messiah:** Let me tell you about  
the decree of the LORD.

He said to me: "You are My Son.

I Myself have begotten you today.

Ask Me and I will give you

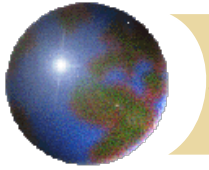
your inheritance – the nations

and your property – the ends of the earth

You will break them with an iron mace,

You will shatter them like a clay pot."





## *Strophe 4: Narrator's Advice*

**Narrator:**       Therefore, O kings, act wisely

                    Let yourselves be corrected, O judges of the earth

Serve the Lord with fear

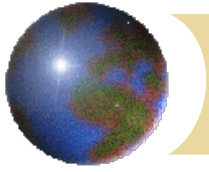
Rejoice with trembling

Kiss the Son lest He be angry

                    And you perish from the way

                    For His wrath will soon flare up.

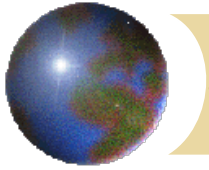
Oh, the happiness of all who seek safety in Him!



# *The Psalm Analyzed Verse-by-Verse*



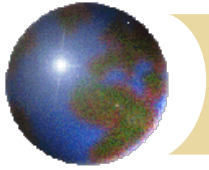




## *Strophe 1: Mankind's Attitude*

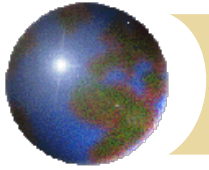
**Narrator:** Why are the nations in turmoil?  
Why do the people think futile thoughts?  
The kings of the earth take their stand,  
The influential ones sit in conference together  
Against the LORD  
And against His Messiah.

**Rebels:** Let us tear off their shackles  
And throw away their ropes!



## *Mankind's Attitude (1-3)*

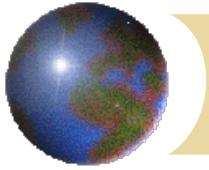
- ❖ Fallen humans find God's word too restrictive.
- ❖ National turmoil, empty speculation, political conferences – all to break away from the rule of God & His Messiah.



## *Mankind's Attitude (1-3)*

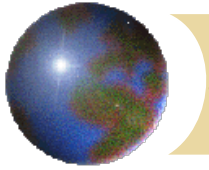
### ✦ Some Illustrations:

- ✦ OT – Eden, Babel, time of Judges, much of Israel's history
- ✦ NT – Crucifying Jesus (cp Acts 4:24-28)
- ✦ Today – "Moral Darwinism" (cp 2 Tim 3)
- ✦ Future – the rebellion will reach its climax in the Antichrist



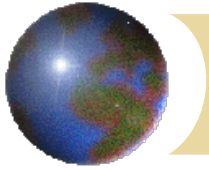
## *Crucifying Jesus*

Acts 4:24-28 (NIV) When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen."



## *Moral Darwinism*

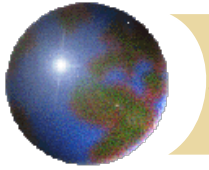
2Tim 3:1-5 (NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.



## *Strophe 2: God's Reaction*

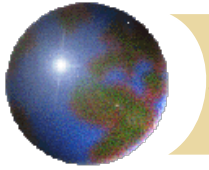
**Narrator:**      The One sitting in heaven laughs  
The LORD mocks them.  
Then He will speak to them in His anger  
He will terrify them in His wrath.

**God:**              Even I Myself will establish my King  
On Zion, my holy mountain!



## *God's Reaction (4-6)*

- ⊕ Now – humor, derision
  - ⊞ Consider His power in a hurricane, an earthquake, the sun
- ⊕ Future – a response in wrath
  - ⊞ Probably the events leading to Jesus' return
  - ⊞ May be more general interventions also
- ⊕ Result – in this way, God will set up His own government.



## *Strophe 3: Messiah's Commission*

**Messiah:** Let me tell you about  
the decree of the LORD.

He said to me: "You are My Son.

I Myself have begotten you today.

Ask Me and I will give you

your inheritance – the nations

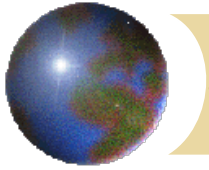
and your property – the ends of the earth

You will break them with an iron mace,

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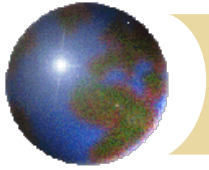






## *Messiah's Commission (7-9)*

- ✦ From God, quoted as an official would present his own commission.
- ✦ Given sonship:
  - ▣ Acts 13:33 – applied by Paul to Jesus' resurrection
  - ▣ Heb 5:5 – when glorified to be High Priest
- ✦ His rule:
  - ▣ Worldwide (cp Rev 2:26-27)
  - ▣ Forcible (not yet eternal state?)



## *Strophe 4: Narrator's Advice*

**Narrator:**       Therefore, O kings, act wisely

                  Let yourselves be corrected, O judges of the earth

Serve the Lord with fear

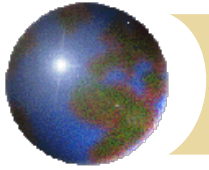
Rejoice with trembling

Kiss the Son lest He be angry

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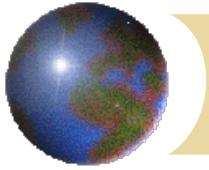
                  For His wrath will soon flare up.

Oh, the happiness of all who seek safety in Him!



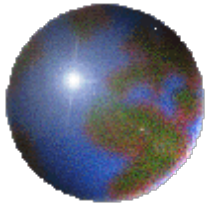
## *Narrator's Advice (10-12)*

- ❁ Be wise!
  - ❁ Stupid to think you can resist or outwit God.
- ❁ Submit to God!
  - ❁ Stupid to think breaking the Creator's principles will give you a better life.
- ❁ Trust Him!
  - ❁ If you can't trust God, whom can you trust?



## *Conclusions*

- ❖ An important way of looking at history is to see it as the story of human rebellion and God's response.
- ❖ This will help us to understand many things that don't otherwise make sense.
- ❖ It will help us to get on the right side!
- ❖ It will show us the way to true happiness.



## *The End*

Oh, the happiness of all who seek  
safety in Him!