

The End-Time Conflict against Jesus' Leadership (Ps. 2)

I. ANGER OF THE NATIONS AGAINST THE LORD (PS. 2:1-3)

- A. David prophesied that the nations would have great anger against Jesus' leadership, His standards of morality, and His right to hold every individual and nation accountable to His ways.
¹Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” (Ps. 2:1-3)
- B. **Rage:** The nations will rage in anger against Jesus' leadership (Ps. 2:1). John highlighted this in the book of Revelation (Rev. 11:18).
¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come...that You...should destroy those who destroy the earth. (Rev. 11:18)
- C. **People plot together:** People in every level of society will plot deceptive strategies to mobilize the masses to resist God's leadership (Ps. 2:2).
- D. **Rulers take counsel together:** The rulers speak of the leaders of society—political, economic, spiritual, educational, military, entertainment, media, arts, athletics, etc. The rulers will take counsel together to come up with “clever strategies.” They will twist the truth about social issues, using deception, distortion, and manipulation.
- E. **Kings set themselves together:** The kings of the nations will set their hearts to fully support the plots of the people and the counsel of the rulers under them. The term, *kings*, includes the heads of state, e.g., presidents, prime ministers.
- F. **Against the LORD and His Christ:** The kings, rulers, and people will specifically plot against the LORD (the Father) and His anointed One (Jesus), to cast off God's ways and to stand against His decree that Jesus, as the son of David, rule all the nations from Jerusalem.
- G. **Break Their bonds and cast away Their cords:** The plan against God will be focused on casting away His Word (v. 3) from society—including all political and social institutions—and from the culture itself. These people will see God's Word in a negative light, as if it were “bonds” that enslave them and “cords” that bind them to His morality and ways.
- H. Before the Lord returns, sin will reach the greatest heights in history (Dan. 8:23; 1 Tim. 4:1-3). There is an unholy momentum building as many attack God's commands, seeking to remove all moral boundaries from the culture, including the sanctity of life, marriage, and sexuality.
*²³In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [*Antichrist*] shall arise...who understands sinister schemes. (Dan. 8:23)*
¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry... (1 Tim. 4:1-3)

II. THE FATHER'S RESPONSE (PS. 2:4-6)

- A. God sits on His throne and laughs with full confidence at their plans to overthrow His purpose. The Lord will speak to them in His wrath, even through His end-time messengers.

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem].” (Ps. 2:4-6)

- B. With fierce anti-Semitism, the nations will attack God's purpose for Jesus to rule all the nations as the son of David from Jerusalem (Zion) in Israel, the land of His covenant people, the Jews.

III. JESUS PRAYS FOR THE FULL RELEASE OF HIS INHERITANCE (PS. 2:7-9)

- A. Jesus declares the divine decree to the Father as He prays for the full release of His dominion over all nations to be manifested openly. Jesus' inheritance is to *possess a people*.

⁷“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron...” (Ps. 2:7-9)

- B. We are to partner with Jesus in praying for the release of His dominion in the nations. The apostles followed the model of Psalm 2:7-8 by joining Christ in His ministry of intercession in asking God to manifest His power before the hostile leaders in Jerusalem (Acts 4:27-29).

²⁷“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together... ²⁹Lord, look on their threats and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done...” (Acts 4:27-29)

- C. God answered Cornelius' weak prayer, releasing a great breakthrough of the Holy Spirit and a new season in God's purpose of bringing Gentiles to salvation through Jesus. In the context of Cornelius' weak prayer ministry the Lord began to fulfill one dimension of the restoration of the tabernacle of David—bringing the Gentiles, the nations, to Jesus (Acts 15:13-17).

¹There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion... ²a devout man and one who feared God...who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³...he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God...saying to him, “Cornelius! ⁴...Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.” (Acts 10:1-4)

IV. DAVID WARNED THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONS (PS. 2:10-12)

- A. King David issued a solemn threefold warning to all who resist the Lord and His purposes.

¹⁰Therefore, be wise, O kings...¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way. (Ps. 2:10-12)

- B. The Lord is orchestrating a threefold response in His Church—of serving with fear, rejoicing with trembling, and kissing the Son—as His people become Jesus' promised inheritance (Ps. 2:8).