

## **SUBMISSION TO THE RULE OF CHRIST**

### **PSALM 2**

Introduction:

Historically this has been understood as a Royal Psalm, written in connection the installation of a king in Israel. It is thus based upon the promise that God made to David through Nathan the prophet. It may have actually been written by David as he meditated on the promise that he had received.

However for us we choose to follow the interpretation of the Psalm set forth in numerous places in the New Testament. Both in the Gospels and in the letters, the Psalm is understood as being a prophetic word fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah of Israel. The heart of the Christian is moved to awe and wonder as they consider the content of the Psalm and hear in it the Good News of Jesus Christ.

So as we read the Psalm, we understand that Jesus in the “Anointed One”. We also understand that Jesus is the “Son”. With this understanding, we see the two possible responses to the Son and His Father. The "kings" and "rulers" openly and angrily reject the right of the Son to occupy the throne of the universe, and His right to rule over the earth. We know from the Gospels

that led to a total rejection of His claims, and His violent death at their hands.

But the Psalm closes with an appeal for humankind to "kiss" the Son. This is best understood as a symbolic expression of surrender and submission, an acknowledgment of His right to rule. As you observe the rituals of the Catholic church, you see this as both priest and laity bow and kiss the ring on the finger of a superior official, like a bishop or cardinal, and ultimately the pope. It is an outward of acknowledgement of his right to the rule over the church, and a submission to his authority. So the appropriate response to the "Anointed of God", the "Son", is to bow before Him and kiss His feet, or His hand.

The world has refused to submit to Him. But those who are wise will submit to the Son; they will kiss the Son. The Psalm makes the case that this is the only wise response to the Anointed of God, whom we understand to be Jesus, the Son of David and the Son of God.

The Psalm is a reminder that there is a universal inclination to reject the rule of the Christ of God. Only a minority of the population of earth have ever kissed the Son. Consider with me the reasons for you making a decision to submit your life totally to Jesus our Lord.

#### I. SUBMISSION ACCEPTS THE CHOICE OF THE FATHER.

It was assumed that since the LORD is the God of Israel, He had the right to choose the king for the nation. It is also assumed that since the Creator is the Owner and Lord over all He has made, He has the right to choose who occupy the throne over His creation. The Creator has established a kingdom that includes all of creation, and He has chosen a King to rule over His kingdom. And in the mystery and wonder of the eternal godhead, the Father has chosen His Son to sit on the throne. The choice of David to sit on the throne of Israel was only foretaste of the choice of the Eternal Son of God to sit on the throne of the kingdom.

After listening to and observing the actions the powers of earth against His Anointed, we hear the voice of the Father.

"Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. <sup>6</sup> Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."

1. The choice of the Father is irreversible.

Can you not sense the finality in this statement of the Father? "I have set" sets forth the divine decree. In eternity past it was finally and irreversibly decided that the Son would occupy the

throne. This decree required the Son to take on flesh in the incarnation, and become the Son of Man as well as the Son of God. While the rulers of earth determined that they would not accept His rule, the Father overturned their decision when He raised Him from the dead. Vain humans may not like it; they resist it, but it has been established--the throne belongs to the Son.

The sobering truth is that your rejection of God's choice will not change anything. You will only bring damnation on your own soul. The Father has decided that the Son is Lord over all--and that includes you.

2. The choice of the Father is unmistakable.

This is where the illumination of the New Testament helps us. According to the New Testament writers, God has provided unmistakable evidence that His choice has been made. Who can forget the exalted language of Philippians 2:9-11 where the inspired apostle writes, "Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; and that every

tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The resurrection and ascension of Jesus is all the proof that we need. We should honor the choice of the Father by kissing the Son. This involves our bowing and our confessing Him as Lord.

## II. SUBMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES THE CLAIM OF THE SON.

After hearing the decree of the Father, we listen to the confident claim of the Son, the Anointed One.

I will declare the decree the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

Actually these prophetic words on the lips of the Son reflect a covenant between the Father and the Son that was established before all the beginnings that we know. When the Son took on flesh in the womb of Mary in Nazareth, it was to carry out the mission that grew out of this covenant. In His statement, the Son is remembering the promises found in that covenant.

1. He claims a unique relationship with the Father.

In setting forth the superiority of the Son to the angels, the inspired writer of Hebrews sites in reference (Hebrews 1:5, "Unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?" In Acts 13:33 Paul cites this reference in connection with His resurrection. "This day" in the Psalm is the Day of His resurrection. This was proof that the union between the flesh of man received in the womb of Mary and the Son that has been eternally on the bosom of the Father is permanent. That Day through His resurrection, He was declared to be the Son of God (Romans 1:4)

In the Psalm the Son is declaring prophetically what the Father said to Him in eternity. This is all now a part of the historical record of the faithfulness of God to His promise.

2. He claims the right to rule over every life.

He also cites the word about His rule. "<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession."

Is this not a wonder! The exalted Anointed Son has a promise from the Father that He can have the nations of the earth for the asking. Is this not included in the word of Paul to Philippians

about every knee bowing and every tongue confessing? Friend,  
the Son has a claim on your life.

3. He claims the promised victory.

"You shall break them with rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Actually this part of the agreement between the Son and the  
Father has not been fulfilled, but it will be. He is patiently  
waiting until the nations are crushed in judgment and made His  
footstool

Do you want to be in rebellion against the Son when is the  
Judge of all the nations? Surely you want to acknowledge the  
claims of the Son, and kiss His feet, and confess Him as Lord.

### III. SUBMISSION YIELDS TO THE CALL OF THE SPIRIT.

We hear the voice of the Spirit in the last stanza of this Psalm.  
After all our God is Trinity--Father, Son and Spirit. It is the work  
of the Spirit to bring sinners into submission to the Son so they  
will kiss Him and serve Him.

"Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son,

lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him."

1. He calls by warning those who have rejected the Son.

His first words are to the kings and rulers. They have led in the rebellion against the Son. They need to have a change of mind, and to begin bowing before Him with fear and trembling. O the awesome position occupied by the Son and the certainty of our standing before Him in judgment. His wrath will make certain our eternal destruction if we persist in our refusal to bow to Him.

This is basic in the work of the Spirit. He convicts unsaved humans of the certainty of Judgment to Come!

2. He calls by presenting the Son as a place of refuge.

"Blessed are those who take refuge in Him." The Son is the only safe place in the day of Judgment. O what blessedness will be yours if you are found in Him in the day of judgment. Paul



declared that "there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

The is the saving work of the Spirit. He reveals Christ the Son in all of His glory to sinners so that they will turn from their rebellion and put their trust in the Son. When they put their trust in Him, He becomes their refuge in the day of judgment. .

Conclusion:

There is an eternal blessedness that comes when we submit to the Christ of God. In Him we are sheltered from the eternal wrath of God against sin, and we are included in the blessed purposes of God for eternity. Are you ready to kiss the Son? Will you not make your surrender to Him today? Listen to voice of the Spirit who is speaking through the Word to your heart. He will lead you to a blessed saving relationship with the Son.