

Title: When God Laughs.
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Most of us are familiar with the texting acronym LOL. I'll have to confess, when it first became popular, I thought it meant "lots of love." Although flattered at first, I was soon humbled when I was told it actually means "laugh out loud."

Did you know that God laughs? But His laughter isn't side-splitting, it's world-splitting. His laughter is both terrifying and comforting. It warns those who rebel against Him of impending judgment, while comforting and assuring His children that they will triumph over all evil.

The most memorable instance of God laughing is found in Psalm 2. It's a prophecy that looks forward to the end of the seven-year Tribulation just prior to the glorious return and reign of Jesus Christ. At that time a vast federation of rulers and nations will unite in passionate determination to prevent Christ from taking the throne of the world and submitting it to God's rule (Rev. 16:13-14). So, the Psalmist exhorts the nations to abandon their rebellious plans against God and to submit to Christ as their Lord and Savior.

So in the first three verses he asks: "Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!'" (Psalm 2:1-3)

There has been and will continue to be an ever-pervasive refusal of the world to see Jesus Christ as Lord. The age in which we live, however bland and accommodating it may seem, essentially hates, opposes and rebels against God in Christ.

In verse 4 the Psalmist turns from his description of the nations to portray the Lord's response to their plan. In a bold description he says: "He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them." When the swell of their conspiracy reaches its height, it's overpowered by the happiest sound in all creation, God's righteous laughter.

Both his posture and location speak of God's supremacy above the vain schemes of rebellious people. In other words, God is above all malice. So God responds in laughter. He responds the way parents do when their three-year-old stomps his foot and says no!

God looks down on man's vain attempts to thwart His plans and chuckles. He sees man's evil plans like mice shaking their fists at a lion. He laughs at wicked schemes against His children (Psalm 37:12-13). God's laughter also strengthens us when we hear our enemies howl and belch forth with their mouth (Psalm 59:6-9).

When God laughs, He's saying: "You've got to be kidding, you're resisting Me?" He laughs because of the futility of their pursuits. However, He will not laugh forever. The

writer continues; “Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

Eventually God will break His silence in His full wrath and fury. Those who refuse to bow in belief of Jesus Christ will hear God’s irrevocable decision: “I have installed My King on My holy hill of Zion.” Nothing man can do will thwart God from carrying out His eternal plan to bring all creation back under full submission to His Son, Jesus Christ. This is so certain that the Holy Spirit led the Psalmist to record these words in the past tense, as if they have already taken place.

Friends, make no mistake about it, Jesus Christ is coming back. And when He does, He’s coming to judge those who refuse to believe that Jesus is God’s Son.

So God does “LOL” but His laugh is not frivolous or jolly. Instead it communicates His sovereignty, power, and authority.

The next time you see LOL from someone in cyber space, think of God, seated on His throne in the heavens laughing out loud and ask yourself this question: Is it a frightening warning of my judgment or is it a calming assurance that I will triumph over evil?

May God grant us repentance and faith to receive the precious gift of eternal life. It’s no laughing matter.