

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

Politics in our country are pretty contentious. With the ubiquitous use of social media, everyone not only has an opinion, but is free to share that opinion with the world at the click of a few buttons. In each race, we try to choose candidates to lead us ever onward and upward. If social and news media are to be believed, every election is steeped in either the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. But as Christ-followers, we can confidently say that no matter who is elected, it's not our guy. Psalm 2 points us to our real leader, the one true king.

Psalm 2 speaks using four distinct voices: those of the psalmist/narrator, God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In the first section, the narrator asks,

*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." vs. 1-3*

The kings and rulers of today are separated from the lifetime of David by thousands of years, yet are still fighting the same fights. We could ask ourselves today the very same question that is posed at the beginning of Psalm 2. Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? Why do they see God as a bondage-bringer, rather than the bondage-breaker that He is? More to the point, is this how *I* see God?

In the next verses, God the Father is speaking:

*He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." vs. 4-6*

Whew. Comforting, right? God is not watching what is happening in this world, wringing his hands and hoping for the best. No! He knows who He has placed in

charge, who is the true ruler. Not only that, but He doesn't just leave us to watch what is happening in this world, wringing our hands and hoping for the best. He tells us what He will do, what He *has* done, and how we can be confident in His authority.

Next we read words from the perspective of the Son:

*I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." vs. 7-9*

David may have been a great king. But he wasn't *the King*. I wonder how writing and reading these words impacted David. Did he try to envision a time when God's one true King would possess the ends of the earth? What did he think that would be like? From our vantage point in 2022, we know exactly who is identified in this passage. King Jesus. We still don't know what that future looks like, but we do know who holds it in His hands.

Finally the Psalm speaks from the perspective of the Holy Spirit:

*Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 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. vs. 10-12*

There is clearly a choice to be made here, and either choice has significant consequences: "perish in the way" or be blessed, taking "refuge in him." Psalm 2 shows us the vital truth that our King—King Jesus—is the only sovereign King. What we do with that truth is up to each of us.

Questions for reflection:

1. What similarities and differences do you notice in comparing the words of each of the four voices in Psalm 2?
2. How does knowing that God has ultimate authority over the rulers of this world change your outlook on current events?
3. Psalm 2 identifies Jesus as the only sovereign King. In what ways have you submitted to His authority in your life? In what ways have you seen Him working in and through your life?

4. Faced with the option to either “perish” or “be blessed,” the choice is clear, but what does that choice look like? How do we make a commitment to “take refuge in him”?
5. With whom can you share what you learned from Psalm 2 this week?

