

When Men Cause God To Laugh

Introduction. It seems like we're living in a time of rage. Maybe it's always been that way. People rage in favor of gay marriage, abortion, assisted suicide, and against Christians. Communist governments legislate against Christianity while emerging democracies strictly limit preaching. In America, religious people are insulted by their leaders and threatened by legislation and judiciaries. We are pushed into a corner and told not to speak in His name or risk losing our freedom and our possessions.

We get discouraged thinking that the world is against us and the Bible, and that it's headed down a path of unrighteousness. But Psalm 2 addresses this situation. This psalm speaks of the Messiah, but it also has many higher ideals that still speak to us and our society now.

I. When The Nations Rage (vv. 1-3)

- A. This section of the psalm was quoted in Acts 4:23-28 which shows that it is a Messianic psalm.
 - 1. While the common people followed the Lord and believed in His power and His preaching (Mark 2:2; 3:10; 5:24), when taken as a whole, the reaction of the world to Jesus was one of raging.
 - 2. The opposition of the people against Jesus was stirred up by the Jewish leaders (Matthew 27:20-25), as well as by the kings and rulers of the earth. The scribes and Pharisees noted how popular He had become among the people (John 11:46-48).
- B. Similarly, the world plots against the will of God.
 - 1. We live in a time when men have plotted together to throw off the restraints of God. They try to get God out of their life.
 - 2. They label the Bible as antiquated or Puritanical and endeavor to update and amend it for Him, and then gladly submit to their new version of truth.
 - 3. They have joined forces, and united in their war against God. And this is what we largely see in schools, universities, political parties, media, etc.
- C. The world tries to sell us on the idea of having an "open mind" when it comes to all these issues. But it's not a virtue to have a mind so open that you'll believe anything. When did we as a society decide this?

II. God Sits On His Throne (vv. 4-9)

- A. While the nations rage, God laughs which means that He is secure, not fearful, or worried.
 - 1. No matter how pervasive and strong the anti-religious feeling is in the world, there is no concern or worry with God that His plans might be overthrown.
 - a) God overcame Pharaoh (Exodus 12:31-32).
 - b) God overcame Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:24-25).
 - c) God overcame the Jews (Acts 5:40-42).
 - 2. This laughter causes fear among His enemies — and it should (Revelation 11:14-19). But it causes relief among God's servants.
 - a) In the first century, the enemies of Christ were many and powerful. From His birth on, they sought to eliminate Him.

- b) Kings, governors, lawyers, judges, priests, teachers all plotted to eclipse His influence.
- B. God has made Jesus Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36) by setting Him on Zion and declaring Him to be His Son (vv. 6-7; cp. Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5).
 - 1. All plots are rebellion and utter failures, as 2,000 years of preaching and discipleship will attest. It is the devil's work and destined for doom (Matthew 16:18). Take heart, for the efforts of the irreligious today will fail too.
 - 2. That good news cannot be extinguished (1 Peter 1:24-25). The saints of today will not stop broadcasting the gospel. Bibles will find their way into China and Eastern Europe. America will never be rid of God.
- C. All of the nations are the possession of Jesus Christ (vs. 8). Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the Roman Empire would be crushed (Daniel 2:44; 7:14), and every nation and their leaders will bow ultimately to the Lord Jesus on that great day (Philippians 2:9-11).
- D. The Messiah would rule and judge men with a rod of iron.
 - 1. When Jesus is portrayed in the book of Revelation, it is not surprising that He is pictured as a judge that rules with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27; 12:5).
 - 2. Elsewhere in Revelation, John portrays Jesus as a conquering King who rules the people with a sharp sword that proceeds from His mouth (Revelation 1:16; 2:16; 19:15, 21).
 - a) The sword and rod is nothing less than the word of God. This will be the standard by which all men are judged (John 12:48).
 - b) In the judgment of Revelation 20, the book of life is the record of those who will be saved, but men will be judged according to their works by the "books" that will be opened (v. 12). These books are the word of God.

III. The Offer Of God (vv. 10-12)

- A. The judgment will be stern, but the offer of grace is strong. God is a God of second chances. He doesn't just destroy them for their vain plotting, but encourages them to change their ways and embrace the Son.
 - 1. The fear of the Lord forms the basis of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). Fools look down on wisdom and instruction.
 - 2. Knowledge in the scriptures will show us the correct path on moral issues of the day. In the matter of salvation, God offers two paths (Matthew 7:13-14) and He wants all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25; 2 Peter 3:9).
- B. The Song of Moses and the Lamb symbolizes the victory of God's people over the forces of wickedness in the world (Revelation 15:1-4).

Conclusion. A simple axiom states that the faithful servant will be blessed. This psalm finishes by saying, "Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." This is indeed my Father's world, so don't be afraid of what the world will do to you. Stand fast in your faith and obey Christ's gospel. Remember that while there's life, you can turn to Him (Ecclesiastes 9:4).

I am deeply indebted to Steve Reeves, Jeff Smith, and David Weeks for the use of their material.