Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 18 – Jesus, The Messiah of Psalm 2)

(Psalm 2)

5/31/2015

* Why Rebel against the Messiah of Psalm Two?

Observe the folly & futility of fighting against Jesus, the Messiah:

I. Why rebel against the Messiah who is in sovereign control over all things? (v.1-5)

II. Why rebel against the Messiah who is going to judge and rule the whole earth? (v.6-9)

III. Why rebel against the Messiah who is worthy of our reverence and trust? (v.10-12)

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

(Part 18 – Jesus, The Messiah of Psalm 2)

(Psalm 2)

5/31/2015

Introduction:

Psalm 2 is a royal psalm, written around 3,000 years ago by King David (Acts 4:25-26).

It's a Messianic psalm, showing the eternal, sovereign rule and reign of King Jesus Christ.

"Psalm 2 is messianic and prophetic. The great rabbinical scholar, Rashi, acknowledged that the rabbis interpreted Psalm 2 as a messianic psalm. But then, with amazing candor, he added, 'In order, however, to keep to the literal sense, and that we may be able to answer the heretics [i.e. for Rashi that meant the Christian who rightly understood the psalm to speak of Jesus], it is better to explain it of David himself. . . '." (Rosenthal, "Zion's Fire," May-June 2001, p. 12)

"It speaks of the final triumph of David's great Son - the Lion of the Tribe of Judah." (Rosenthal, p. 13)

Psalm 2 could have been one of the Scriptures Jesus quoted to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection.

Luke 24:44 - And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

Who is this "anointed?" Jesus Christ!

To prove this point. . .

1) **He is one person** ("Anointed one") (v. 2)
(not a succession of kings)

The word "anointed" (mashiyach) is a reference to the ultimate Davidic ruler – the Messiah.

In the Bible, 3 people of Israel were anointed with oil: the Prophet, the Priest, and the King.

Jesus Christ is all three in one person; His coronation took place at His baptism, when the Holy Spirit descended on Him (Mk. 1:10) and God the Father announced: "Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased" (Lk. 3:22).

2) **He is one with God** (v. 3)

3) **He is one commonly rebelled against** (v. 1-2)
(Has anyone in history ever become a target of attack more that Jesus Christ?)

4) **He is established by God and appointed as king of Zion** (in Jerusalem) (v. 6)

5) **He is God's Son** (v. 7) – by "son," he does not mean offspring, but one fully identified with God.

It's an expression of identity and oneness (unlike the angels who do not partake in such a close identity with God

Hebrews 1:5 - For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?
Hebrews 5:5 - So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6) **He is the inheritor of the entire world** (v. 8)
(King David never inherited the whole world; The Messiah, in the lineage of David will)

7) **He is the omnipotent judge** (v. 9)

8) **He is to be honored and trusted** (v. 12)

Such a description proves that He is not a mortal king; He will be in a class all by Himself. Note: the fact that we are to "trust" Him disproves the notion that God is speaking about the man, David; but He is speaking about the King who will rule on David's throne; He is talking about a supernatural King. One who must be completely believed on and trusted. We are not to trust in mortal kings and princes!

Psalm 118:9 – *It is* better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

Psalm 146:3 – Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

Psalm 2 deals with rebellion. Rebellion against God and particularly against the Lord Jesus Christ:



America's general rejection of God (He is no longer allowed in our public schools or public life) has become the catalyst behind much of the chaos, confusion, disorders we find today in family life, education, the legal system (court system etc.), etc.

- If there is no God (and we are a product of chance or evolutionary cause, as Darwinism)
- Then there is no Lawgiver to whom we are accountable.
- If there is no Lawgiver then there is no law or standard by which to measure right & wrong.
- If there is no Law or standard by which to measure right & wrong, there is no absolute truth.
- And if there is no absolute truth, there is no basis for morality.
- Each person can determine the "rules for life" and man can be his own god.

The problem with this reasoning is this: If everyone can make his own rules for life, then when my rules and your rules conflict, there is no structure to society to determine how to resolve the issue.

Each will be out for what he wants at the expense of anyone else's property or life. There is no basis for common law, if there is no basis for truth. If God is "dead" or non-existent then everything becomes permissible.

Interestingly enough, God said "lawlessness" would mark the last days, prior to Christ's return. And the Antichrist will be called the "lawless" one as he will embody the lawless spirit that will engulf the world in the end times. (2 Th. 2:8 – "Wicked one" = anomos; lit. without law). The stage is being set today for his arrival.

Our culture is committed to attaining its vision of radical liberation from all authority. Authorities are viewed by many as the enemy of individual freedom. There is an underlying current today to do away with all authority structures. Whether it be authority in the home, church, or government. Authority is a bad word today. It flies in the face of humanism (man being the measure of all things) and relativism (anything goes). Therefore any Authority, such as a supreme God or The Bible must be eradicated from society.

“Preachers are tolerated so long as they stick to therapeutic messages of enhanced self-esteem, and resisted whenever they inject divine authority or universal, absolute truth claims in their sermons.” (Burggraff, p.7)

SATAN'S ATTACK (Matthew 16:22-23)
Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for ***thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men****.* ***Matthew 16:22-23***

The Instigator of Humanistic Philosophy:
*** Satan attacks because he abhors the things of God and adores the things of men (v. 23c)**

Humanism (Man is the measure of all things)

What things does Satan savor? What things of men (unsaved carnal humanity) does Satan love to promote?

--The glory of men - Mt. 6:2, 5
--The commandments of men - Mt. 15:9
--The traditions of men - Col. 2:8; cp. Mk. 7:8
--The heart of men - Mk. 7:21; cp. Jer. 17:9
--The praise of men - Jn. 12:43
--The ungodliness and unrighteousness of men - Ro. 1:18
--The wisdom of men - I Cor. 2:5
--The sleight (deceit) of men - Eph. 4:14
--The lusts of men - I Peter 4:2
--The elevation or exaltation of men - Rev. 13:13

The Humanist philosophy comes from Satan and resembles Satanism in many ways. The essence of Satanism is explained as follows:

"And he must---as a Satanist knowing this, realizing what his human potential is---eventually (and here is one of the key points of Satanism) attain his own godhead in accordance with his own potential. Therefore each man, each woman is a god or goddess in Satanism." (Anton LaVey, the High Priest of the Church of Satan)

"I am my own redeemer" (fourth chapter of the Book of Satan).

"Do what thou wilt is the whole of the law" (Alister Crawley).

Proponents of humanism:
Paul Kurtz
Carl Sagan
Humanist Manifestos I & II

Beliefs:
Belief in Man rather than belief in God;
Confidence in human nature;
Truth is based on man's experience;
Correlating beliefs: *atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism*
No God (evolutionism) leads to No Absolutes (Relativism and Antinomianism) which leads to Radical Individualism or Humanism (I am my own captain).

Results:
Situation Ethics; Denial of supernatural.
Human beings "may, and do, make up their own rules... Morality is not discovered; it is made."

Humanism's basic teaching: Man is the measure of all things

Manifestations of Humanism:
1) Hero Worship (movie stars, musicians, celebrities, sport figures)
2) Overconfidence in man (whether doctors, politicians, various gurus)
3) Selfish Lifestyles ….etc.
4) Ultimately, a rejection & denial of God

How is humanism being promoted today?

Through "New Age philosophy" and the public school system.

The New Age movement is not an organization; nor an established religion; The title "New Age" is not a Denominational tag; but the New Age Movement is a PHILOSOPHY that is spreading trough politics, ecology, education, psychology, nutrition, entertainment, science etc. This philosophy is a mystery of iniquity inspired by Satan which will prepare the world for a Global Unity, a New World Order, and the emergence of the Antichrist.

This New Age philosophy is really nothing new, but is a blend of Occultism and Hinduism (which started 2,000 B.C.)

1 Samuel 15:23 – "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry"

**** Why Rebel against the Messiah of Psalm Two?***

Observe the folly & futility of fighting against Jesus, the Messiah:

I. Why rebel against the Messiah who is in sovereign control over all things? (v.1-5)

v. 1

This psalm begins with a question. Questions have a way of stirring up the conscience and getting people to think.

The question is designed to show the absolute absurdity of those who rebel against God and His Messiah.

Why do the heathen "rage"? Why are they in an uproar over God and His Messiah? Why do unbelievers get so upset over the Lord? Why such an uproar over Someone so unworthy of strife?

Could it be that His righteousness is a rebuke to our unrighteousness? Could it be that we don't like Him interfering with our plans? Could it be that there is a conflict of wills and we just don't like His agenda? Could it be that we love our sin and prefer darkness over light?

"The people imagine a vain thing" – Any attempt to plot or devise a plan of rebellion against the Lord is vain! It's futile! Ultimately any attempt to go opposite God or to fight against Him is pure failure. People stand no chance to plot a rebellion against Him. No one fights Him and wins!

v. 2

“Set themselves” – take their stand.

"That is, they assume a deliberate hostile position - they set themselves in battle array." (Rosenthal, p. 13)

No matter how high and mighty and no matter how many there are in number, all of the world’s rulers together cannot take a successful stand against Yahweh and His Messiah! If the most powerful kings of the earth would be unsuccessful in anchoring in and hunkering down entrenched in their rebellion against the Lord, how could any of us assume that our stubbornness will prevail?

“The rulers take counsel together” – No matter how big the cooperative effort, and no matter how cunning your devious scheme may seem, you will not successfully devise a way to eradicate the Lord.

"The purpose behind all of their actions is at last made known. The nations want no restraint, no absolutes, no standards, and above all, no accountability. They want to be able to say, 'I'm the master of my fate." (Rosenthal, p. 13)

There is a big push today to eradicate God from public life; to remove Christianity from the public square; to scrape the land clean of any semblance of the faith of our fathers.

Ultimately this attempt by world rulers to position themselves against God will happen in the Day of the Lord at the Battle of Armageddon.

Rev. 19:17-21 – And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.
And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

cp. Rev. 20:8 - And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

This will be the world's final vain attempt to overthrow Christ at the end of the Millennium.

v. 3

"…Bands…cords" –

So often people have the erroneous concept in their minds that God is unnecessarily restrictive, that God reins us in and ties us up, strangling the life right out of us.

While God does bind His children to Himself, His cords are love, and any restraints are for our well-being. Jesus said that His yoke was easy and His burden was light (Mt. 11:30)

Here the world is described as wanting to be rid of any control of God in their lives. "We don't want Him ruling over us," they say. "We want God out of our lives."

People in unbelief shake (as it were) their fists in God's face, saying, "I don't want You in my life!" Hell is God's way of saying, "Okay, you may have your wish."

The Prophet Isaiah said: 'He is despised and rejected of men . . . and we hid as it were our faces from Him. . . He is despised, and we esteemed Him not." (Is. 53:3)

v. 4

"Shall laugh" – People often mock God, but He always get the last laugh! He laughs at a pathetic world that assumes they can break away from His sovereign control.

People often mock God, His truth, and His ways, but in the end, He will be the one scoffing.

The "Lord" – Adonai ; the sovereign master of the universe. The term is used of Jesus the Messiah.

David said:

Psalm 110:1 – The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Luke 20:41-44 – And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son?
And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
Till I make thine enemies thy footstool.
David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son?

v. 5

People refuse to take the Lord seriously; but one day He will speak out of His hot anger and the bulk of humanity will be terrified by His wrath.

II. Why rebel against the Messiah who is going to judge and rule the whole earth? (v.6-9)

v. 6

Just as David took control of the city of Zion (2 Sam. 5:7), so will Jesus Christ upon His return.

"Whether men like it or not, whether they agree or not, the Son of God will rule the world - not from Washington, London, Paris, Bonn, Tokyo, Moscow, or Peking, but from Jerusalem." (Rosenthal, p. 13)

v. 7

"Now the voice of the Messiah, the Son of God is heard. He repeats the Father's counsel concerning Himself. It is almost as though He is reading from a scroll which contains the decree, 'Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.' This text does not speak of origin; it speaks of position. There was never a time when the Son of God did not exist. His 'goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting' (Micah 5:2)." (Rosenthal, p. 14)

"Begotten" – from the dead by means of His resurrection.

Acts 13:33 – God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

The Old Testament predicts the rule of the Messiah.

Psalm 22:27 – All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Psalm 72:8 – He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

Daniel 7:13-14 – I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

v. 8

"The heathen" = the Gentiles of all nations will be inherited by the Messiah. Why would anyone not want to be part of His inheritance?

Jesus will one day take over the earth! Should we not let Him take over our lives?

This verse is quoted by John in Rev. 2:27 – And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And in Rev. 19:15 - And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

In the Day of the Lord (after the Rapture), Jesus returns to judge the world.

The "rod of iron" and dashing them in pieces like a potter's vessel speaks of utter destruction, total decimation.

III. Why rebel against the Messiah who is worthy of our reverence and trust? (v.10-12)

v. 10

Verse 10 introduces a "word to the wise" – "O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth" (NASV)

v. 11-12

Verses 11 and 12 admonish us to serve the Lord, rejoice in the Lord, and to "kiss" or do homage in worship to the Lord Jesus.

However, the emphasis is not on what we are to do for the Lord but on how we are to do it.

Note: We are to:

- Serve <u>with fear</u>
- Rejoice with <u>trembling</u>
- Kiss means <u>worship</u> Him in full awareness of His anger and wrath!

This calls for:

--<u>Reverence</u>
--An attitude of <u>awe</u>
--<u>Seriousness</u>

Such serious reverence excludes a light, flippant, gay, trite, carnal style of ministry!

Serious reverence is demanded in our <u>service</u>, our <u>rejoicing</u>, and our <u>worship</u>.

Note the <u>balance</u> in our approach to Jesus Christ. Yes, we serve Him – but not anyway we please. Yes, we rejoice – but not without sobriety (the words "rejoicing with trembling" seem in congruous – they don't seem to agree).

We are to worship the Son, but we must do so immediately -- not when we are good and ready, but now, lest His wrath flare up in a moment.

v. 12

"Kiss" – to pay homage to or worship the Messiah, the Son of God.

Judas "kissed the Son," but it was a kiss of betrayal, not a kiss of humble worship and submission.

"The Son" – the same "Son" mentioned in 2:7.

Note Prov. 30:4 – Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell?

"Trust" – to take <u>refuge in</u>

You are blessed if you simply cease rebelling against Jesus and avoiding Him, and take refuge in Him.

Trusting Christ results in the eternal blessings of eternal life and the temporal blessings of abundant life!

Conclusion:

The rebellion of the world (the unsaved) against God and His Christ is clearly manifested.

> But what about us as believers? Are we (in our hearts) rebellious in any way against our Heavenly Father?

It is the ultimate heartbreak to pour your life into your children and then to have them "stab you in the back" for it. To pour your life's sweat, blood and tears into rearing your children and to have them rebel after all that is the height of inequity.

> Consider all that God has done for you:

1) He gave you life
2) He sustained you by provision and protection
3) Along the way, He gave you whatever health you had
4) He put people into your life who took care of you and tried to teach you
5) He tugged at your heart and drew you to Himself
6) He opened your eyes to the Gospel and then saved your soul when you called upon Him
7) He has patiently put up with our immaturities and has forgiven us over and over again when we asked Him to

Do we really believe that things will turn out okay when we go opposite the will of God?

Do we really think that we can outsmart God?

Notes by Charles Spurgeon on Psalm 2:

This psalm expresses: "the tumult of the people against the Lord's anointed, the determinate purpose of God to exalt his own Son, and the ultimate reign of that Son over all his enemies." (Spurgeon, p. 10)

"The reasons why sinners rebel against God, stated, refuted, lamented, and repented of." (Spurgeon, p. 20)

v. 1

"Nothing is more irrational than irreligion." (Spurgeon, p. 20)

"A vain thing - A medal was struck by Diocletian, which still remains bearing the inscription, 'The name of Christians being extinguished.' And in Spain, two monumental pillars were raised, on which were written:-- 1) 'Diocletian Jovian Maximian Herculeus Caesares Augusti, for having extended the Roman Empire in the east and the west, and for having extinguished the name of Christians, who brought the Republic to ruin.' 2) '. . . for having adopted Galerius in the east, for having everywhere abolished the superstition of Christ, for having extended the worship of the gods'." (Spurgeon, p. 14)

v. 2

"They took counsel, saith Matthew, to put him to death." (Spurgeon, p. 14)

v. 3

"We have, in these first three verses, a description of the hatred of human nature against the Christ of God." . . . Acts 4:27, 28." (Spurgeon, p. 10)

"The kings of the earth set themselves. In determined malice they arrayed themselves in opposition against God. It was not temporary rage, but deep-seated hate, for they *set themselves* resolutely to withstand the Prince of Peace." (Spurgeon, p. 10)

"O that men were half as careful in God's service to serve him wisely, as his enemies are to attack his kingdom craftily. Sinners have their wits about them, and yet saints are dull." (Spurgeon, p. 11)

"However mad the resolution to revolt from God, it is one in which man has persevered ever since his creation, and he continues in it to this very day." (Spurgeon, p. 11)

v. 4

"He looks upon their poor and puny efforts, not only without uneasiness or fear, but he laughs are their folly; he treats their impotency with derision. He knows how he can crush them like a moth when he pleases, or consume them in a moment with the breath of his mouth." (Spurgeon, p. 15)

v. 6

"After he has laughed, he shall *speak*; he needs not smite; the breath of his lips is enough" (Spurgeon, p. 11)

". . . He is a king, 'This name he hath on his vesture and on his thigh.' Rev. 19:16." (Spurgeon, p. 16)

v. 9

"Now another person is introduced as speaking" (Spurgeon, p. 12)

"Now Christ the Anointed himself comes forward..." (Spurgeon, p. 12)

". . . when the rod of iron is in the hand of the omnipotent Son of God[,] those who will not bend must break. Potters vessels are not to be restored if dashed in pieces, and the ruin of sinners will be hopeless if Jesus shall smite them." (Spurgeon, p. 12)

v. 12

"They are exhorted to obey, and give the kiss of homage and affection to him whom they have hated." (Spurgeon, p. 13)

"Be wise - It is always wise to be willing to be instructed, especially when such instruction tends to the salvation of the soul." (Spurgeon, p. 13)