

What's RIGHT and what's WRONG

- What's right with the world?
- What's wrong with the world?
- How do we often respond to what's wrong?
- How SHOULD we respond to what's wrong?

A Laughable Rebellion, and A Blessed Refuge

Psalm 2

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Hebrew Poetry

- Rarely rhyming or rhythm
- Parallelism
 - “Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.”
- Chiasm: A B B A
- Personification
 - Describing something that isn't a person as if it were a person

Psalms: give us words and patterns for talking with God

BLESSED
ARE ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN GOD.
PS. 2:12

Psalm 2

1-3: Rebellion against God can seem so strong

- View from earth

4-6: • Psalmist is neither surprised nor worried by things that are going wrong

- Psalmist is astounded by the absurdity of rebelling

7-9: against God

10-12:

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- “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” *Ephesians 6:12*

When the early church was persecuted, they prayed this psalm. Then they prayed...

- “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” *Acts 4:29-30*

Psalm 2

1-3: Rebellion against God seems so strong

- View from earth

4-6: God's authority and plan are unchallengeable

- View from heaven
- God is neither surprised nor worried

7-9: by things that are going wrong

- God is astounded by the absurdity of rebelling against

10-12: Him, and angered by the harm that it does

- Response: emphatic declaration of His Will

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7-9: The Anointed One claims the Father's promise

- Rebels will submit to the Anointed Son

10-12:

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7-9: The Anointed one claims the Father's promise

- Rebels will submit to the Anointed Son

10-12: Advice to all people: submit to God

- With joy and total submission
- Find blessing by seeking refuge IN God

The Big Idea

God's wonderful, holy, loving authority
though often hidden and rebelled against
is never threatened or weakened by anything
and one day we will fully experience it with great joy

Application

- Stop rebelling against God
 - By saying...
 - “My plans are better than your plans”
 - “I won’t trust you with this part of my life”
 - It is absurd, self-defeating, and destructive
 - It cuts us off from the **ONLY** source of good
 - “I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing.’” *Psalms 16:2*

Application

- Stop rebelling against God
- Take refuge (protection) in God
 - Often not a rescue **FROM** trouble,
rather **THROUGH** trouble
 - Claiming His promises often doesn’t bring faster fulfillment
 - Trouble is one of God’s key means to invite us
deeper into relationship with Him and His people
 - So help each other do keep faith in His promises
 - “Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.” *Hebrews 12:12*

Application

- Stop rebelling against God
- Take refuge (protection) in God
- Obey His will today
 - We say, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done.”
 - And I will do it by Your strength

This is my Father's world.

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

這是天父世界，

求主叫我不忘：

罪惡雖然好像得勝，

天父卻仍掌管。

ne'er = never
oft = often

The Big Idea

God's wonderful, holy, loving authority
though often hidden and rebelled against
is never threatened or weakened by anything
and one day we will fully experience it with great joy

What, then, shall we say in response to [our present troubles]? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Romans 8:31-39