

## PSALMS 2

### **The Rebellion of Fallen Humanity Against His Creator:**

{2:1} Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? {2} The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. {3} "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

The heart of the natural man is filled with rebellion against all authority and this rebellion begins with his rebellion against the ultimate authority which is God. The tragedy of the situation is that the things people perceive as chains and fetters are the very things that liberate us to enjoy the fullness of life.

There are and have been various "plots" and "conspiracies" by groups through out history that seek to "free" humanity of the chains and fetters of being responsible to God for what we do. We don't normally think of these things as conspiracies but many of the "isms" that abound are simply philosophies that are attempts to "liberate" people from the inhibitions caused by so-called "religious rules." The most blatant is atheism that denies the very existence of God. If there is no God, then we are automatically not responsible to something or someone who does not exist. Moving toward more subtlety is humanism that claims that mankind can save itself and that by education and "genetic manipulation" we can get better and better and there we are responsible only for and to our selves. Also on the subtle side is the theory of evolution and all the misinformation regarding the origin of various species. If everything just happen by random chance over billions of years, then we are here by chance and there is no intelligent "moving" or "creative" power anywhere.

One would not think that *Star Wars* is part of the "plot" to undermine the authority of God, but consider the impersonal "force" that is more like an energy field than the God we can personally know through Jesus Christ.

*PRAYER: Lord, we pray that those who are in rebellion against You and Your authority will see that Your way is the only workable solution to the dilemmas of life. Help each of us, Your children, to be living our lives in such a way that others may see Your salvation in us and be drawn to Your Son, Jesus Christ.*

### **God's Response to Mankind's Effort to Be Their Own God:**

{4} The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. {5} Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, {6} "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

We should be glad God has a sense of humor. He recognizes the disparity in power between rebellious man and Almighty God. It is as if a two-year-old child threatens to beat up a grown man. It is laughable. We should also be glad that God loves us. Rather than just destroying man completely, He uses rebukes and displays of His might in a effort to show us the disparity in power and vanity of opposing God. Such actions have a redemptive purpose. God's ultimate redemptive act is found in the person of Jesus Who provides a way of salvation to fallen mankind. Those who trust in God's way will willingly acknowledge the Lordship of God's King.

*PRAYER: Father, thank you for your mercy and for giving people another chance to repent and to recognize you as the only Lord of Creation. Thank You for taking into account that we are weak and incapable of saving ourselves and for giving us an means of salvation in Christ.*

### **God's Remedy to Man's Unrepentant Rebellion:**

{7} I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father. {8} Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. {9} You will rule them with an iron scepter ; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Jesus came to earth to reveal and proclaim all we can know of God. He was uniquely

begotten of God and as the First Born, He inherits all things. Those who would oppose His inheritance will not be allowed to succeed but will be broken. The fall of great empires that have opposed God's purposes as recorded in human history provides evidence of the truth of these words.

*PRAYER: Lord, we pray that people will realize that along side of the great grace and mercy, there is also great wrath for those who reject the costly solution to our lost condition. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"*

### **Mankind's Way Away from God's Wrath:**

{10} Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. {11} Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. {12} Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

God's judgments in history are sufficient warning for all to avoid opposition to God. Some do not have a reverential fear of God and this leads them to think they can oppose what God is doing without fear of consequences. The Proverbs teach us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Notice that the warning is directed to those who are in positions of leadership (kings and rulers). A special responsibility goes along with the privilege of leadership. The possibility of influence (for good or evil) is so great for anyone in a leadership role that such a role cannot be taken lightly.

The proper attitude is for leaders to recognize that they must be good followers before they can be a good leader. Even the ultimate human leadership role must be under the penultimate authority of God who is the Creator of all things. All legitimate authority finds its source in God and is "service" to God. What rebellious leaders fail to realize is that by standing in proper order in the authority of a loving God brings joy that cannot be duplicated in anything they can do in their own strength.

We can either embrace or reject God's provision for our salvation (the Son). If we reject it, then we are condemned already and judgment can fall upon us. The other alternative is to embrace the One Who is our Savior and in doing so, we become one with Him and in Christ we enjoy all the blessings of His inheritance.

*PRAYER: Thank You for making a way for us to escape the "law of sin and death" and to be able to serve You in Your kingdom. Give us the wisdom to always embrace what Jesus has provided for us in the work of the Cross and to experience the real joy of knowing that we are in Your will and that we are pleasing to You.*