

Jesus our King

Psalm 2

Summary: *Jesus is our King; we must obey Him, submit to Him, rely on Him and expect Him.*

Opener:

“God save the king!” I was only five when King George VI died so I’m too young to remember singing “God save our gracious king”.

Looking around I think there are some here who will remember singing “God save our gracious King”.

When you hear the word king, what does that bring to your mind?

Good kings, bad kings, how much power etc. What about your attitude to a king? We read about kings in Psalm 2 and one King in particular.

Let’s pray.

This sermon series is called Jesus in the Psalms.

Point etc.

There are several Psalms that Jesus quotes in the New Testament and also Psalms that speak specifically of Jesus –

– like Psalm 2.

These Psalms are called Messianic Psalms.

In this Psalm there are two levels – the immediate historical context but also the Psalm looks forward to a greater King. Incidentally, capital letters are important here. See in verses 2 and 10 we have kings with a lower case k but in verse 6 we read that God has installed His King (Capital K) – and we’ll see exactly who that King is.

Verses 1–3 here we have kings of the earth plotting against the Lord’s anointed. Who is the Lord’s anointed? We’ll see in a moment. These verses tell us we hate the King.

Verses 4–9 we see we have a true King installed by God (“the One enthroned in heaven”) – but – we hate the King.

Last section verses 10–12 are very practical – they are a call to us to see that though we have a King and we hate the King, we need the King and we’re called to take our refuge in Him.

So – we have a King, the trouble is we hate the King but.....we need the King.

There are things here that most of us will agree on and make us feel comfortable – things that might make us feel uncomfortable – but ultimately something that is the most wonderful reassurance.

You'll find these basic points on the back of the order of service if you'd like to follow along.

We have a King

What is God saying here? He's saying "Here are all the kings around but there is a King above all these kings. Here is my King, the true King I have installed."

There's something in our psyche – our make up – that makes us want a king of some sort. We see it in legends, Robin Hood, King Arthur, The Lord of the Rings. The danger for us is, if we don't find the true King, we'll create a false king. God is calling us here to find and worship the true King.

Hebrews chapter 1 verse 5 – *'For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?''*

God has literally and fully said this to Someone – a real King above all kings.

In the New Testament, the gospel message, the message of Christianity, is "Yes there is a true King. There is one and only one. Jesus Christ the Lord, God's Anointed One."

The word Christ means – the Anointed One. So we have a King but:-

We hate the King

Verses 1–3:

*Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord and against his anointed, (that's Jesus) saying,
"Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles".*

Reading those words you might think it means the Lord and His Anointed One have got the kings of the earth in chains like captives in prison. Actually the Hebrew word 'shackles' in verse 3 is better translated 'yoke'.

In the New Testament in Acts 4:24 – after Peter and John had been released from prison we read these words:

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them."

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

“ Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.’ ”

The passage goes on to explain that this quote from Psalm 2 is fulfilled in Jesus.

We hate the King

So back to the beginning of Psalm 2, the kings of the earth aren't upset because they're prisoners and they've got chains on them. No, they're upset because they have an owner. A yoke is something you put on an ox or a horse. You own it and you want to control it.

For the kings of the earth, the idea here is someone owns them. Someone who demands they be yoked because their creator has rights over them. They want to have nothing to do with that. “I want to be my own!” This is the natural impulse of every human heart.

I am my own.

Take the yoke off.

I belong to no-one but myself.

I am the captain of my own soul.

I am the master of my fate.

Sound familiar? We might not use those words, but isn't that how all of us feel? The Bible says we hate the idea of a king – of someone who has rights over us – someone who says “You belong to me. You are not your own. You must do as I say.” Do you see – the Bible is saying, human beings don't just disbelieve in God; we hate Him.

Lot of people say “I don't hate God. I believe in a God of love. I like to think of God as...” The Bible says we hate the God who says “You are my possession, I own you. Here is the yoke”. That's the God we reject.

In the 18th century, the American theologian and preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote a book called “MEN NATURALLY ARE GOD'S ENEMIES.”

The Bible doesn't say “people are hostile towards the concept of God or towards the idea of God.” The Bible says people hate the biblical God. The God who makes Mount Sinai shake when He speaks – the God who says “be holy because I am holy. You must have no other gods but me”.

You might be thinking “I don't hate God...”

Part of becoming a Christian is admitting you're an enemy of God. Now – here's a thing: the only way to become a friend of God is to admit you're His enemy.

Well that's all a bit uncomfortable isn't it? But here's the glorious truth:

We need the King

Look at verse 10 –

*Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.
Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and your way will lead to your destruction,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him*

What these verses tell us is that there's no refuge from the King – only refuge in the King. There's no in between. There's no refuge from the King – only refuge in the King.

To put it another way, the yoke..... becomes a refuge.

Like someone practising a musical instrument – yoked to it during the drudgery but then it becomes a refuge – able to express themselves in the music in a way they couldn't have done without the hours of practice.

We need the King

The Bible says that in every human heart there is potential. You'll have blossom if you come in under the King – you'll blossom in places you didn't know you had buds! If you believe and obey and love the King you'll find yourself. You'll be yoked and yet free. Free to fulfil your potential.

Until you completely submit to the King and give yourself to Him, the Bible says your heart won't reach its full potential. It's been likened to a car engine that's not running on all its cylinders.

If you don't submit to the King you won't be able to reach your full potential.

When you serve the King, He will serve you. You will feel loved – you will feel valuable; two of our most basic human needs. That's the relationship.

Because – at the end of the Psalm:

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

So, lastly, what do the last three verses tell us what it means to treat Jesus as our King? There are four things –

Obey
Submit

Rely Expect

First obey. Here's a question: is Jesus your King – or your consultant? If you say "I'll obey if it feels good, if it's practical, if it's popular, if it's pragmatic." That's not obeying, that's using Jesus as a consultant – someone who makes recommendations, then you decide what you're going to do. No our attitude has to be like Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane "Not my will but yours be done".

Secondly accept. We can often be very obedient but when things come into our lives that make us say "This isn't right. This isn't fair." Treating Jesus as our King means saying "You must know best."

It doesn't mean we have to go round with a cheery smile on our face "Everything's fine." Often we have to wrestle and struggle. We have to learn from Job. "I don't sense God's presence, and the things God is allowing to happen terrify me. But He knows my way and when He has tested me I will come forth as pure gold."

That's accepting the kingship of Jesus. There's the challenge. Do you give Jesus the kingship like that?

Thirdly rely. When we read in verse 12 "*Kiss the Son*" that means, if you add anything to Jesus as a requirement for being happy, that's your real king. "I'm happy to become Christian as long as these things happen in my life". That's your real king. To kiss the King means relying on Him, obeying Him and submitting to Him.

It means saying "I won't make my King a means to an end – the King's love is enough in itself."

And lastly expect.

See verse 11 – "*rejoice with trembling*" – we need to be positive and not pessimistic about what God can do in our lives. That's treating Him as a King. We need to have expectations that are worthy of a King.

But we must also heed the warnings at the end of the Psalm. Those who don't respond to God's invitation to put their trust in Him – to take refuge in Him – for those people God's wrath will separate them from Him forever.

So we need the King – King Jesus. Make sure you become yoked to Him, obey Him, submit to Him, rely on Him and expect great things from Him. Get plugged in to the King so that your heart can fire on all cylinders because –

Blessed are those who find refuge in the King.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit would come and open our hearts to see how we should be applying these things. I pray that everyone here might find that as they come and they kiss the King and they obey out of love for Him, they'll find their lives are opening up. Father, forgive us for wanting to pull the yoke off. Show us that the yoke becomes a refuge, that your service is our perfect freedom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.