



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Psalms for Advent

OUR KING IS COMING!

Psalm 2



1. **Opening Discussion Questions:** (in a group setting you may not want to use all of these)
 - a. What was the most unexpected or meaningful physical gift you have ever received on Christmas morning (don't spiritualize this question)? Why was it unexpected or what made it particularly memorable? How did you react when you received it?
 - b. If you could meet any biblical character (other than Jesus) at Starbucks for coffee, who would it be and what would you ask them? Why did you select this character?
 - c. Christmas movies have become a tradition (and a big business) in America. What is your favorite Christmas movie? Why? If you are a fan of Christmas movies, do you think they have gotten better or worse over time?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. God Responded to Human Rebellion by Promising to Send His Son to Be Our King
 - i. The world's ongoing rebellion against God and His will is described
 - ii. God's response - contempt and His Son, Jesus, Our King
 - iii. All nations are invited to submit to God's Son, the King
 - b. Celebrate What's Already True in Christ's Kingdom; Anticipate What's Coming
 - i. This psalm highlights the Kingship of Jesus through both His First and Second Advents
 - ii. Celebrate what's true now because of the First Advent
 - iii. Anticipate what's coming with the Second Advent
 - c. Accept and Extend God's Invitation to Love His Son
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. *Sunday Afternoon*
 - i. As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - ii. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - iii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iv. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - v. What is one thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?



- vi. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. Monday:

- i. Begin this week's study by meditating on the focal passage, Psalm 2.
 1. If possible, read it out loud. If doing the study in a group have a different member read each 3 verses (1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12).
 2. Then go back and reread it stopping after each 3 verses. Select a section title for the verses you just read and summarize the key points of those three verses.
 3. Who wrote this Psalm (see Acts 4:25-26)? How might the events of 2 Samuel 5:17-25, 8:1-14 and 10:1-19 have influenced the author?
- ii. Psalm 2 is quoted or alluded to in the New Testament more than any other Psalm. Scan these passages: Matthew 3:17, 7:23, & 17:5, Mark 1:11 & 9:7, Luke 3:22 & 9:35, John 1:49, Acts 4:25-26 & 13:33, Philippians. 2:12, Hebrews 1:2, 1:5, & 5:5, and Revelations 2:26-27, 11:18, 12:5, & 19:15. What are the key points the New Testament authors take from this Psalm?
- iii. A Messianic Psalm is one that prophetically refers to Jesus. How/where does Psalm 2 do this? Other Messianic Psalms are 8, 16, 22, 23, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 102, 110, and 118. Although you may not want to do it during this study, reading these 13 Psalms together can be a meaningful step in preparing for Christmas.
- iv. In addition to being a Messianic Psalm, Psalm 2 is a Royal Psalm – one that refers to the coronation of a Jewish king and/or the rebellion of a vassal nation against the king. How/where is that seen in Psalm 2?

c. Tuesday:

- i. Read Psalm 2 again.
 1. What prophecies do you see about Jesus in these verses?
- ii. Now focus on verses 1-3.
 1. How does David begin this, Psalm? What do you think his attitude was about the need to ask such a question? What answer do you think he expected?
 2. Who tries to stand against the Lord? What are they trying to accomplish?
 3. What parallel is there between these first three verses of Psalm 2 and the beginning of the Parable of the ten minas in Luke 19:12-14?
 4. How do the main themes conveyed in Psalm 2:1-3 reflect the general atmosphere of the world today? How do these verses explain the current situation: John 7:7, 18-19, & 24-25, Matthew 24:9, and Luke 21:17?
 5. Read Romans 1:18-32. How would you summarize Paul's description of the consequences of defying the Lord?
- iii. Move on to verses 4-6.



1. How does God respond to the conspiracy/rebellion of the kings described in the first three verses?
2. Compare verses 4-7 with Isaiah 40:6-17.
 - a. What aspect of God's character do these passages reveal?
 - b. Regardless of your political views, how should the insight these verses provide about God influence your thoughts and responses to the results of the recent election?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read Psalm 2 again and then go back and meditate on verses 7-9.
 1. When you read the first phrases of verse 7 (before the quotation begins) who do you feel is talking?
 2. To whom do you think the quotation is referring?
 - a. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16 (especially verses 12-14). Who do these verses suggest the Psalm is referring to?
 - b. Read Acts 13:32-34, Romans 1:1-4, Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5. Based on these verses who do you think the Psalmist is talking about?
 - c. How does this dual meaning show the prophetic nature of the Psalm?
 3. Read Revelation 2:27, 12:5 and 19:11-15. Based on these verses what can we say about the rule of Jesus the King?
- ii. Now focus on the final three verses of Psalm 2. Read them carefully seeking to understand both what the Psalmist is saying to others and what the verses mean to you personally.
 1. How does the object of the Psalmist's advice change in these three verses?
 2. What advice does the Psalmist give to rulers (kings)? What rationale does he provide for following the advice?
 3. Read Daniel 5:19-37. How does this event in King Nebuchadnezzar's life demonstrate the validity of the command in Psalm 2:10-11?
 4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Based on what Paul tells us, what would you say a ruler needs to do to be truly "wise"?
- iii. The Psalm ends by providing a blessing.
 1. How do we obtain the blessing (see John 3:16-18 and 20:31)?
 2. Once we have received the blessing ourselves, what are we to do with it (see Matthew 28:19-20)?

e. Thursday:

- i. In some traditions the first Sunday of Advent is associated with Hope and the Hope candle is lit. Read these verses: Romans 8:22-30 & 37-39, 12:9-13, 15:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:13, 15:17-20, Titus 3:4-7, and 1 Peter 1:3-9.



- ii. How would you define “hope”?
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 13:13 lumps faith, love, and hope together. How is hope different from faith (consider Hebrews 11:1) and love? How is it connected to them?
 - iv. What is the only source we have for hope?
 - v. How does all of this make Christmas especially a celebration of hope?
- f. **Friday:**
- i. In addition to hope, the first Sunday of Advent is frequently associated with the prophecies of Christ's coming. Read these prophecies: Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 9:6-7, 52:13-53:12, Daniel 7:13-14, Hosea 11:1-11, Micah 4:6-5:5, and, of course, Psalm 2.
 - ii. Why is it important to consider the prophecies about the coming of Christ? What was God doing by giving these prophecies?
 - iii. Although his prophecies came after the birth of Christ some of the clearest and most direct prophecies came from John the Baptist. Read John 1:15-28 and Matthew 3:1-12.
 - 1. Why were John’s prophecies particularly important?
 - 2. What did Jesus say about him (see Luke 7:28)? If we have accepted Christ as our Savior, how do we compare to John?
- g. **Saturday:**
- i. Read Psalm 2 one more time.
 - ii. What lessons do you see that can be applied to your life?
 - iii. During this hectic Christmas season when we all tend to get too busy what steps can you take in your daily life to really “take refuge in Him”?
4. **Application:**
- a. If there are areas in your life where you feel opposition or conflict, consider how reflecting on God's sovereignty as shown in Psalm 2 can provide you with peace and guidance.
 - b. Lay out some practical steps you can take to share the message of this psalm with others, particularly emphasizing the invitation to trust in the Son as Savior.
 - c. Spend time reflecting on how recognizing and emphasizing the ultimate authority of Christ over the nations can not only influence your perspective on current events and global issues but could help reduce the political divisions that exist in our country.
5. **Prayer Points:**
- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
 - b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
 - c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
 - d. Supplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19