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Psalm 2

"WHY IS THE WORLD IN SUCH A MESS?"

Haven't you ever wondered why the world has gotten into such a mess? Why can't nations get along? Why has our planet been scarred by continuous wars? And why do all of man's efforts to improve things seemed to end in vain?

After all these years of making the same mistakes, over and over again, you'd think we would learn how to improve. But we keep on in the same old cycle:

We have a "war to end all wars," only to turn around and fight again. We make treaties and alliances and promises, only to turn around and break them. Some here have seen the League of Nations and the United Nations. We have put our hopes in the Geneva Peace Conference, the Paris Peace Talks, and various Summit meetings. Each has used the best brains in the business. We have spent huge sums of money (mostly US currency) and man-hours.

Yet it all seems "in vain." It seems to do little good in the end.

We have tried **various forms of government.**

Much of the world is trying Communism (or its little sister, in drag, called Socialism). These are systems, which promised the equality, through a government controlled redistribution of the wealth. It sounds good. But it has never worked successfully. It destroys individual initiative and productivity. As someone said: "Once a few had everything in many had nothing. Now everybody has nothing." Or more true to life is what one of my friends said: "In Communism, everyone is equal, but some are more equal than others." How true, since most communist regimes are ruthless totalitarian dictatorships.

Our Constitutional Republic has been called the "noble experiment": a Government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

And I'm grateful to have been born in this structured type of democracy. Yet I wonder if it is not turning slowly into a big government bureaucracy, where the people will allow the government to do all the decision making for them, because the government promises to take care of them.

And is it truly a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, when the Supreme Court can overrule the majority vote of the people, as in this day of Colorado on the matter of slowing down the gay agenda? Sounds more like a centralized dictatorship than a democracy.

And how sad, when a local school system is controlled by the government and its pet teachers' union, rather than by the local parents are states' rights. Our founding fathers must be rolling in their graves!

How sad! Tell me, why don't even the noblest of men's plans seem to work out? Why do they all eventually go sour?

Well, it's interesting to me that people were asking these same kinds of questions 2500 years ago! Psalm 2 opens with this very inquiry: "WHY do the Nations rage?" ("Heathen" means "nations"). Why do the nations fight war after war?

And "WHY do the people (of this world) imagine vain things?" Why do all of the ideas and plans of the smartest people proved to be futile and frustrating, in "vain?" These are timeless and universal questions.

But God has not left us in the dark. In the 11 verses, which follow, God answers these questions for His people. I like for you to look at them with me. I believe that they can throw light and hope your direction.

In order to answer these questions, Psalm 2 makes Three Startling Statements and then gives mankind an Urgent Invitation to do something about it.

I. First look at the **THREE STARTLING STATEMENTS** in verses 2-9. (You will not find them in your schoolbooks or on the evening news, but they will tell you more about what is going on in our world than either. And they are God's truth.)

A. **THE NATIONS OF THIS EARTH ARE IN REBELLION AGAINST GOD.** (Verses 2-3)

I've heard peaceniks say: "Wouldn't it be great if they had a war and no one came!" This sounds real good, but it completely misses the point of

what is going on. The fact is that there has been **an ongoing war for control of this planet**, since the beginning of civilization.

These things, which we call wars, are just local skirmishes. Most of the world has been in a continual fight against God! A rebellious spirit, leading men to revolt against God, has been a **part of every system of government**.

Do you see? Our Creator, God, had a plan. But men wanted their own plans, instead. And all attempts of human government, to "set themselves" up, and all the "councils" of nations "together," are really **attempts to be independent from the plan of God!**

Now I know that is a mouthful. I said it would be a "startling" statement. So let's examine it more closely.

Now just **WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN?** Vs. 2 tells us that God's plan is that He should Himself be "Lord" (or ruler) of the world, which He created, and that He should share that rule with His "anointed" Son. (The word "anointed" is the same as the O.T. word for "Messiah" and the N.T. word for "Christ.") God's plan is to rule the world through His Son, Jesus Christ. (Compare verses 7-8).

But the peoples of this **world don't want that plan**. They are "against the Lord, and against His anointed" (verse 2). They say: "Let us break their bands (which confine us) asunder and (let us) cast away their cords (which tie us to that plan) from us" (verse 3). "God and His Son are not going to lock us in nor tie us down to their plans. We have some plans of our own!"

In plain words, **all forms of government** (as idealistic and benevolent as they may claim to be) and all **Counsels, leagues, and united efforts of nations** (which seem to be so noble in their intent) are, at the heart of things, **only a FRONT for man's rebellion against God's rule.** In that is **why they can never seem to succeed!**

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to sound like a radical. I know that sincere and well-meaning people are a part of these efforts. And once these systems are set up, we have to cooperate to the best of our abilities.

But I also realize that, **underneath all systems** of government, is **an infectious rebellion** against God's plan, for His Son To Be King of planet Earth!

And, mind you, it is not a rebellion to make this world an "evil" place. Men and nations are not trying to turn this world into a hellish cesspool. No! They are trying to turn it into a Utopia. They are using brains, skill, and technology **to create a little "heaven" of man's own making.**

But it is a heaven on earth, which leaves God and His Son out of the picture. The world system and governments and its leaders don't want God

to be "lording it" over them! They are always trying to break God's bands, which restrain their sinful natures, and to shake off His cords, which might inhibit them from doing whatever they please.

And what are some of these "bands." which men finds too restrictive? What about the bonds of matrimony? God wants one man to be married to one woman for life. In our society, that is a joke. With free love, live-in arrangements, no-fault divorce, all sorts of subsidies for illegitimate children, and now same-sex marriages, our society has broken this band of God's. In the government ends up in encouraging such behavior, by its laws, programs, and policies. Human government will always encourage anything, which shakes us loose from God's ways.

And what have we done with God's moral "cords." Which would restrain our selfish natures? We have "cast away" God's ten Commandments. In our one's Christian nation, where God's law was taught in school, it can no longer be used in our government controlled educational system.

We have cast away our godly heritage in the name of multiculturalism and secular humanism. (Once people, who wanted to come here, could either fit into our system or get back on the banana boat and go back to where they came from. Now we have to change what they come here for come in the name of "fairness.")

And we have thrown off God's moral cords so much that we are not even shocked, when our national leaders lie and commit adultery and suborne purgery and covet ruthless power and call for the murder of innocent babies, in the last moments before they leave their mothers' wombs. We have generally cast off every one of God's moral cords. In fact, many are just excepting this as the way things are, "nowadays."

Our world system has completely thrown off God's cords of moral restrain. And was such a rebellious spirit at work, is it any wonder that our best efforts have only produced centuries of confusion, skyrocketing crime, broken families, and the endless cycles of war and peace, depression and boom, world councils in broken agreements?

And lest you think that I am carrying this statement of verses 2-3 to the extreme, allow me to point out that our Bible shows how this rebellion has progressed from the earliest chapters of human civilization. And it assures us that it will not end until Revelation 19, when "the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God."

Let's follow this "drama of the ages" from the divine perspective. Notice: ACT ONE of Man's Rebellion, Scene 1, is found in Genesis 10: 8-10. God at old man to: "Be Fruitful and Multiply and Subdue the Earth." In other words, spread out and populate the entire planet. These were God's

orders. Well, just one chapter later (one generation), men began to rebel and to "cast off their cords," so that God and His Son could not control what they did. Here is how it happened.

One man, Nimrod, a mighty man: a powerful leader type and a "hunter": who could offer other men protection from the wild animals: started "his kingdom" (vs. 10) and called it "Babel." Notice: already **one man wanted to take over God's job** and to rule over other men, as their **"king."** The Monarchy system was being substituted for divine rule.

And like most elitist politicians, who think that they know what is best for people (who are too weak and ignorant to figure it out for themselves), he **offered the people "security"** from the wild animals, in order **to gain their following**. And, for the promise of a better life, the people are willing to let him "rule" over them. In fact, they looked to him, instead of God, for their own well being. And Nimrod gained unprecedented control over their lives.

Now it was crude and primitive, of course, but this is the first sample and the **basic pattern, which all human governments have followed**. (Even today, in our advanced society, we knuckle under more and more to the powers of government, because they promise to take care of our needs and to protect us from any number of "crisis," which they make sure to a rise with an ever increasing frequency.) They come at us with what sounds like compassionate idealism, but they continue to seize more and more control of our lives. And we voluntarily give up our freedoms, in the name of "security."

That's why the **godly founders of our nation** gave us a Constitution: to protect us from the increasing lust for power that goes with human government. They knew human nature. They had enough of big government, running people's lives, in Europe. So they tried to set us up, so that it could not happen here. The **Constitution** does not empower government. It **limits government**.

But the government has learned how to twist the Constitution, in order to do the very opposite. And they use it as an excuse to seize more and more control over our lives, our property, and our wealth.

Well, it **all started back in Babel**. Let's move on:

ACT ONE, Scene Two, of this rebellion is in Genesis 11: 1-9.

Notice verse 2: "As they journeyed," doing what God had said (spreading and populating the entire Earth), they **rebelled** by stopping on a beautiful plain. "Why listen to God. This looks perfect" they said. "Let's settle here!"

And, in verse 4, men formed their **first "council."** their first effort to call their own shots to make a better life for themselves, then what they thought that God could give them. "**Let us,**" they said. That is a council at work, if I ever heard one.

"Let us make a tower" (to protect ourselves), "reaching to Heaven": we'll make for ourselves a Heaven on Earth. Let's prove that we can pull it off all by ourselves, "**lest we be scattered** abroad" by this God, whom we see as a threat to our freedom.

Aha! There's **the real motive, coming through** all the idealistic talk. They didn't want God to force them to go along with His plan. So they out and out rebelled, in the disguise of doing something great and wonderful, a council for the betterment of humanity.

And of the name of this place was "**Babel.**" That's right: it was the same city that Nimrod started. It was later called **Babylon,** and **from it the infectious rebellion began to spread.**

Remember that name, Babylon. It will appear in Scripture, **representing man's rebellion against God's plan,** until the very end of human governments, when the Angels will rejoice that "Babylon is fallen." The spirit of rebellion will be over forever.

Well, in verses 6-9, **God had to do something** to get their attention, or this rebellious attitude would spread. So He "vexed" them. He confounded their languages. He made them so they could not communicate and could not cooperate and could not agree on anything, because they no longer had the ability to talk things over. And they **had to** spread out on the Earth, like God has originally planned.

ACT TWO was in Daniel's Day.

The same place, Babel, had grown into the great city of Babylon. And instead of a **local king,** Nimrod, it now had the "**Emperor**" Nebuchadnezzar, **ruler of the entire inhabited world.**

But it was basically the **same old song:** the next verse is the same as the first: only this time there was more orchestration. They had built a city that was the wonder of the ancient world, from which they ruled the rest of the civilized world.

They had truly "**made in name for themselves**" with their hanging gardens, an unbelievable mountain of vegetation in the middle of the desert flatland. Babylon even had a **state** controlled false **religion,** which was a great help in keeping the people in superstitious subservience to the government. It kept them from thinking for themselves.

It also **uses terror tactics, or crisis**, to keep the people in line. They had a "fiery furnace," into which anyone could be thrown, who did not bow down to the godlike leader of their government.

By the way, this became the **pattern for all monarchies** to follow: One man, with godlike power, using fear tactics, state religion, public works projects, and the promise of his tax funded protection, in order to control the destinies of his subjects. Man's rebellion against God's plan had become well oiled and finally tuned.

ACT THREE is when God sent His **prophets**, to warn these king's and their people that they were rebelling against their truly leader, God. Men like Daniel, Jonah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah **warned** that **this rebellion would lead to their destruction.**

But the earthly rulers only tried to shut them up, by imprisoning them and putting them to death. And the Scriptures tell us not to be surprised, if this is the fate of anyone who try to live godly, in the midst of this rebellious world order.

ACT FOUR is when **God Sent His "Anointed" Son** to this Earth, as a man, hoping that men would certainly reverence and respect His Son (Matthew 21:30 3-41). This was during the time of the **fourth world Empire**, when one man in Rome ruled the entire world with godlike power. His name was Caesar.

God's Son came, not in war but in peace. He came, not with fear but with love. He came **to offer Himself as this world rightful King and its Savior**: not in a war chariot, but "slowly and riding upon a donkey," in order to show His concern for the plight of the common man.

But **the infectious rebellion was still there** in the hearts of men. They did not want God's Son. Even the common people cried out: "Away with Him. Crucify Him. **We have no king but Caesar!**"

In our day, the drama goes on pretty much the **same**. We have no more pure monarchies nor world empires. But many other forms of government continue in the **same patterns of controlling** the people, by offering them tax-funded security. And they take council together in an effort for world peace and solidarity. But they continue to try to rid the world of any loyalty to God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

And even our great nation, which was founded to be "of the people, by the people, and for the people," has begun to degenerate into a place where the government "elite" think for us and regulate our lives. And socialistic dependence is slowly taking the place of individual freedom and

responsibility. In a state religion, of evolution and secular humanism, takes away our desire of the young for anything better.

Still there are constant crisis and wars and threats. And no one can make much sense out of it. (This is what has been "hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed to those" who are childlike enough to accept it from the Word of God.)

But **God is not going to let it go on this way forever.** Someday there will be:

THE FINAL ACT in the drama of man's rebellion. It is described in the last part of God's Book: in the "**Revelation**" of what lies ahead.

Again there will be a world ruler with godlike power over the lives of humanity: an ultimate Nimrod: an unabashed "**Anti-Christ**," to whom the other previous rulers were only small previews of coming attractions. (They've all been anti: "against": Christ, from the very beginning. This ruler will just boldly admit it!) He will control a man, using a false religion as his ally, in order to distract men from the true God and to help him to persecute those who give their loyalty to the true God.

He will control the economics of our world. No man will be able to "buy or sell" the necessities of life, without his mark of approval.

He will even demand worship, setting himself up as god. And all, who will not worship him, will die a horrible death.

And our "one worlder" presidents, with their talk of a "New World Order," are just setting the stage for this sort of thing!

Listen. The startling message of the Bible is that the Nations of the Earth are in continual rebellion against the plan of God. It has always been that way. That is why the world is in such a mess. And it always will be that way, until God intervenes takes a personal hand in things.

But notice the second Startling Statement from Psalm 2:

B. **GOD DELIBERATELY FRUSTRATES MAN'S REBELLIOUS EFFORTS.** (Verses 4-5)

Even a God of love can only take so much rebellion. He can only be long suffering and wink at sin for so long. He can only watch, as His loyal subjects are persecuted, for awhile.

God will give these rebellious men and nations **enough rope to hang themselves.** He will frustrate their selfish efforts and cause their high sounding schemes to backfire. That is why the nations rise and fall so regularly.

Notice how God "laughs" at man's rebellious plans and the messes, into which they get themselves. Now this is not a laughter of humor. All of the tragedy, which this international rebellion causes, is not a funny matter.

Never get the idea that God laughs to see cities bombed or children starving or babies killed. No! He weeps over that period

In fact, that is why God allowed His Son to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. He wanted to give such victims (of this rebellious Babylon system) a chance at a new and everlasting life in a better world, when Jesus is king.

God's laughter is more the **laughter of unbelief**. He shakes His head at this preposterous scene, where puny little dictators shake their tiny fists in his face and declare their rebellion at His plans. It is absurd!

How preposterous it must have looked to see Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar and Mussolini and Hitler and Stalin, and even those who would socialistically reengineer our once great nation, as they have defied the God of the universe.

Yes, God laughs in disbelief at the leaders, who try to play God. He "holds them in derision." He eventually brings them to "panicsville!" He "vexes them" and make sure that their rebellious plans eventually failed.

Now you may not like the sound of this. But there is no other answer to why every imagination of governments prove to be "vain" in the end. God is frustrating man's high-handed rebellion.

The third Startling Statement is this:

C. **GOD IS DETERMINED TO BRING HIS ORIGINAL PLAN TO ASS.** (Verses 6-9)

God has "decreed" it (versus 7). That means that it is settled in heaven, and **nothing on earth can stop it**. God will eventually **give His "The Nations"** of the Earth as His inheritance and the uttermost corners of the Earth as His possessions."

And to do this, God will **have to "break" all rebel powers** to pieces, like you would smash a clay pot with an iron rod. Now this may sound startling, if you have a sentimental religion or a liberal view of Jesus.

But **how else can God** bring about His plan? He came the first time, gently and lovingly. He said: "Here I am, to take what belongs to me." And their first reaction was to ignore Him. Their final reaction was to crucify

Him. When He comes the second time, He will not chance this reaction. He will break them with a rod of iron!

This "**smashing**" end to the history of man's rebellion is described in **Revelation 18 & 19**, when all the armies of a "new world order" are led to battle by that final rebel, the undisguised Anti-Christ. And the anointed Son of God, the risen Jesus Christ, will return visibly and bodily to this Earth. Only this time He will be riding a white battle charger and will destroy His enemies, in a slaughter like the world has never seen.

And King Jesus will take His throne. The **kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God**. And He will rule the world in righteousness and truth and love. Men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. And men will study war no more (Isaiah 2: 2-4).

And a **victory shout** will go up from God's people: "**Babylon is fallen**" (Revelation 18: 2). Yes Babylon, that men centered rebellious system of government, which has infected the nations and led to war and famine and pestilence through the ages, will be gone forever! And a good riddance!

And in its place will be a world that is governed by the **only King, who is fit** to rule: the King who loves His people so much that He laid down His life for them: the King who calls His subjects "brothers" and who has appointed the lowliest in His kingdom to be "joint heirs" with Himself.

Believe me, that is going to be **a happy ending**! That is when we are going to know that what we call **History Is Really His Story**!

Now, in light of these Startling Statements, God gives us an:

II. **URGENT INVITATION** (Versus 10-12)

"Be wise now!" (Verse 10) Gets Smart! Don't hear this as a history lesson nor as a philosophy lecture. Wisely plan your future, in light of what is going to happen. Be instructed, every one of you, from Kings to peasants!

Start to **"serve the Lord"**. You can be a part of His invisible Kingdom, His underground movement, right now! Until the day, when His Kingship is revealed for all to see, we can make Him our King today. He said: "My kingdom is within you," right now.

"Kiss the Son". That's right. Kiss and make up with the Son of God. Make friends with the Lord Jesus Christ.

My friend, this very day you can kiss and make up with the Son of God, the coming ruler of this universe. And you can begin to serve Him and help Him to call out a people for His name.

I'll tell you. It is **the only sensible thing to do**. "Be wise now."

You will walk out of here today as **a citizen of Babylon or as a citizen of Jesus' Kingdom.** Which will it be? He wants to be your friend. He came the first time to offer His life as a substitute, to pay your "rap" for you. Now He stands invisibly at the door to your life and asks to come in.

Open today, and enter the kingdom of God.

And **do it now!** Trust Him while He comes on friendly terms, before the day when "He be angry and you parish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little."

You will meet Him now, or you will meet Him then! "Happy are they who have (already) put their trust in Him."

May I introduce you to King Jesus now?