

Summer in the Psalms: Psalm 2
ABC, May 30, 2021

Poet Robert Browning once wrote, *God's in His heaven--all's right with the world.*¹ How do you take that? As we look at the reality of this world, we have to question whether *all's right with the world*. Yes, God is in heaven but *all is not right with the world*. We'd probably agree more with the guy who wrote:

*God's plan made a hopeful beginning,
But man spoiled his chances by sinning,
We trust that the story
Will end in God's glory,
But at present the other side is winning.*²

That may amuse us but we know this present world is no laughing matter. Man isn't *in every day & in every way getting better & better.*³ Instead we wonder if the world is out of control. Should we despair & be depressed? Should we insulate ourselves from the world & its godlessness? Should we just want out of here? How do we address this? Ps 2 tells us. According to Acts 4:25, King David is the author. He saw the chaos of the world around him & said that even though the nations rebel against God, God is still sovereign. Even though the world may look like God's on vacation, David shows that God's plans have not & will not fail. Everything is under His control & He'll triumph in His time.

Before we get into it, as I said last week, Pss 1 & 2 are the introduction to the other 148 psalms. Ps 1 begins with, **How blessed**; Ps 2 ends with the same Hebrew word. Ps 1 ends with a threat; Ps 2 begins with a threat. In Ps 1, the godly man *meditates* on God's law; in Ps 2, the wicked *plots* (same Hebrew word) on how to cast off the rule of God. In Ps 1 the theme is the contrast between the righteous & the wicked person; in Ps 2 the theme is the contrast between the rebellion of wicked rulers & nations & the rule of God's righteous Messiah. Ps 1 has 2 stanzas & 6 vss. Ps 2 is twice as long, with 4 stanzas & 12 vss. Ps 2 moves from the very personal focus of Ps 1 to the cosmic drama of redemption. It gives us the big picture of salvation & world history. It presents

¹ *Pippa Passes*, Act 1, *Morning* (1841)

² Boice, pp 124-125

³ Psychologist Émile Coué (1857-1926)

the defiance of the world in rebellion against God, His Anointed, & His ways. The way of sinners in Ps 1 now is a revolt of the nations against God & His Anointed. Ps 2 is the unfolding of the wrong path & its consequences. But now, the righteous man of Ps 1 is clearly seen to be God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Ps 2 shows us man's delusion in thinking he's able to make war against God. Rebellion against God never succeeds. God laughs at man's pathetic pride & is angry at their rejection of His goodness. He isn't shaken by rebellion, but establishes His King on Zion's hill. God gives Him the power to judge & subdue the nations & only destruction awaits those who continue to rebel. This King is the **refuge** of His people. **1-12**

In one sense, every faithful king of Israel was God's son & the savior of His people. God said to David of David's descendant, **I will be a father to him & he will be a son to Me** (2 Sam 7:14). But David & all other kings were flawed pictures of the great & perfectly faithful King Jesus, David's greater Son. It is Jesus that Ps 2 ultimately speaks of. In vss 1-3 we have...

1. Man's Rebellion⁴ The schemes of these rulers against God & His Anointed are rooted in a time in David's reign when some nations sought to rebel, but we have no details. On one level, vss 1-3 refer to those rebel kings & their attempts to be free from David's rule over them. But it's also obvious this psalm goes far beyond David's experience. It's ultimately fulfilled only in God's **Anointed**, which is the Hebrew word, *Messiah*. The perfectly righteous one of Ps 1, who is Jesus, isn't wanted by these rulers. & since Jesus is God's Son, their rebellion against Him is a rebellion against God Himself. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, David wrote this not only about himself, but in a deeper & much more complete way, about Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. Just as these kings rebelled against King David, all men rebel against King Jesus. As we know, when

⁴ Spurgeon pointed out that in the late third & early first centuries the emperor Diocletian (a.d. 245–313), a great foe of Christianity, struck a medal which bore the inscription: "The name of Christianity being extinguished." Diocletian extended the frontier of the empire westward into Spain, where he erected two monuments proclaiming: *Diocletian Jovian Maximian Hercules Caesares Augusti for having extended the Roman Empire in the east & the west & for having extinguished the name of Christians who brought the Republic to ruin & Diocletian Jovian Maximian Hercules Caesares Augusti for having everywhere abolished the superstition of Christ for having extended the worship of the gods.* But Diocletian had not abolished Christianity. On the contrary, at the time Christianity was growing stronger than ever, & eventually it triumphed over Caesar's throne. Spurgeon quotes an earlier preacher, William S. Plumer: *Of 30 Roman emperors, governors of provinces & others in high office, who distinguished themselves by their zeal & bitterness in persecuting the early Christians, one became speedily deranged after some atrocious cruelty, one was slain by his own son, one became blind, the eyes of one started out of his head, one was drowned, one was strangled, one died in a miserable captivity, one fell dead in a manner that will not bear recital, one died of so loathsome a disease that several of his physicians were put to death because they could not abide the stench that filled his room, two committed suicide, a third attempted it but had to call for help to finish the work, five were assassinated by their own people or servants, five others died the most miserable & excruciating deaths, several of them having an untold complication of diseases, & eight were killed in battle, or after being taken prisoners. Among these was Julian the Apostate. In the days of his prosperity he is said to have pointed his dagger to heaven, defying the Son of God whom he commonly called the Galilean. But when he was wounded in battle, he saw that all was over with him, & he gathered up his clotted blood & threw it into the air, exclaiming, "Thou has conquered, O thou Galilean."*

Adam & Eve fell & disobeyed God, the human race fell into sin & came under God's judgment. But even in His curse upon the serpent, God pointed to the way of redemption that He'd planned from the beginning saying, **I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your seed & her seed; He, the woman's seed, God's Anointed, the Messiah, shall bruise you, the serpent, on the head, & you shall bruise him on the heel** (Gen 3:15). Messiah Jesus, born of a woman, would be bruised on the heel by Satan in death as the sin-bearer for the fallen race, but He would crush Satan in His triumphant victory over sin & death by His resurrection. By bringing people from every nation under the lordship of God's Anointed, the rebellion of Satan is stamped out. As we see in vs 8, the Father tells the Son, **Ask of Me, & I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, & the very ends of the earth as Your possession.** Their rebellion will be crushed, either through their willing submission to the gospel now or through their forced subjection under the rod of the Messiah when He comes to judge the nations.

The ancient Jews understood Ps 2 looked forward to the promised Anointed One, the Son of David prophesied in 2 Sam 7. Some think it was sung by Israel in crowning the kings of Israel. If so, it was only a shadow or type that pointed to Jesus who perfectly fulfills this passage. Keep a finger here & turn to Acts 4. I want you to see how Scripture interprets & applies Ps 2. In Acts 4, the early church was being persecuted, the apostles were in jail in vs 3, but the gospel couldn't be stopped. Vss 24-26 say,

When they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God & said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven & the earth & the sea & everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did the Gentiles (nations) rage, & the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, & the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord & against His Christ (Anointed).'

It quotes Ps 2 & says it came from David's mouth but was also said by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-inspired commentary on Ps 2 in Acts 4 shows it's about Jesus. It also shows us these early Christians prayed the words of Ps 2 to a **Sovereign Lord** (24). How did Jesus' early followers interpret & apply Ps 2? Vss 27-28 continue,

For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod & Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles & the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand & Your purpose predestined to occur.

The same sovereign hand & plan at work with their anointed king David in the past was at work in a greater way in God's providence, predetermining the death of the Anointed King Jesus at the hands of heathen men. Knowing God's sovereignty over evil gave them boldness & courage. How are we to interpret Ps 2:1-2? The Spirit-inspired interpretation by the NT church shows us. Don't just think of the raging nations in the OT, think of the Idumean Herod, the Italian Pontius Pilate, & the Roman soldiers. When Ps 2 talks about the peoples **devising a vain thing**, the end of Acts 4:27 applies it to the peoples of Israel plotting in vain to stop the Lord Jesus, their Messiah. The end of vs 1 asks why these nations plot in vain? We can think of the political vanity in our own & other governments, the planning & pushing of ungodly agendas. Vs 2 says the world's leaders **take** a defiant stance, & the nation's **rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, & against his Anointed**. That's been going on since Christ came & the Jewish council gathered the Gentile rulers against Jesus. This has been going on since the church's persecution in Acts 4. Other translations of Ps 2:3 say, **Let's tear off the shackles they've put on us! Let's free ourselves from their ropes...that hold us back...that tie us down. Let us...free ourselves from their restraints.**⁵ In other words, *Let's not be fettered by cords of Christianity. Let's ignore the Bible because it's offensive & let's throw off any shackles of biblical morality, let's free ourselves sexually, let's redefine gender & throw off all moral restraint.* We can hear our own nation raging,

Let's get rid of marriage as God has designed it. Let's throw off any idea that a mom & dad are good for boys or girls (& let's not call them boys or girls if they don't want us to). Let's not be held back or tied down to our biological gender or design. Let's throw open all doors but throw out any hint of God, His Word, & His Messiah.

How are we to react to the world around us when it does this? Ps 2 tells us how God reacts. Where is God in all this rebellion? Did He go to sleep? Has He lost control? Of course not. The psalmist shows us...

2. God's Response (4-6) God isn't anxious or alarmed. He doesn't even get up from His throne to deal with the rebellious kings. Vs 4 says, **He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them** (4). This doesn't mean God gets a kick out of man's sin or its devastating results. No. As God says

⁵ NET, NCV, HCSB

in Ezekiel, **'As I live... I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way & live'** (33:11). God's laughter shows the folly of mankind rebelling against Him. Mighty men rise up & proudly think they're wise & powerful. How does God react? He laughs. Who is puny man to try to stand against their Creator, the Sovereign God? God **removes kings & establishes kings** (Dan 2:21) according to His will. Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest ruler in his day, grew proud & attributed his greatness to himself. God humbled him so he lived in the fields & ate grass like a beast until he recognized **that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind & bestows it on whomever He wishes** (Dan 4:25). I like how Charles Spurgeon put it: *God's Anointed is appointed, & shall not be disappointed.*⁶ Notice the contrast: earthly kings stand against God but God sits in heaven, unthreatened, undisturbed, & still on His throne. Man sets himself against Jesus but God Himself set Jesus as Zion's King in the heavens until the day of wrath when He comes to His earthly throne. One day Jesus will return & reign eternally. The hymn writer says, *Glorious things of Thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; He whose word cannot be broken formed Thee for His own abode: On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake Thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all Thy foes.*⁷ The nations' plotting against God has been rightly called *the laughable madness of humanity's mutiny.*⁸ The world is on a warpath against God, but God isn't worried. He sits & snorts in derision at man's folly, as if to say, *Really? You seriously think you can get rid of Me?* This rebellion isn't taken seriously by the God of heaven. He doesn't panic. No, He laughs. The whole world tries to make a plan against God, seeking counsel together for a coupe, but God laughs it off as a pathetic, puny, idiotic, & insignificant insurrection. What happens here on earth doesn't trouble Him. It makes Him chuckle. As we saw, Acts 4 applies this to when Christ was crucified, the people of the earth had conspired to put an end to Jesus, & they thought they had. He had said, **take My yoke upon you** (Mt 11:29), but in killing Him they thought the yoke had been cast off, that Christ & His movement are done with. But God sat, smiled, & even laughed. Heaven rumbled, the earth shook, the grave opened, & King Jesus came out! All

⁶ *Treasury of David*, Psalm 2

⁷ John Newton, *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

⁸ Conrad Mbewe

their raging & plotting was in vain to stop God's plan: *Vainly they watched...vainly they sealed the dead... Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior, He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! Up from the grave He arose! With a mighty triumph over His foes!*⁹ Ps 2:3 says the enemies of Christ tried to tear His chains away from them & in Christ's death they thought they'd sealed Him in His tomb. But He actually tore away the tethers of death & burst the bonds of the grave! In Acts 7, the same counsel thinks if they kill Stephen that will end Christ's church. Again, God smiled as He looked at Saul of Tarsus holding their robes, & God got the last laugh as Saul became Paul & spread the gospel throughout the known world. In history, many rulers have attempted Ps 2:3, but they all failed & Jesus prevailed. It will always be that way. Ps 59:8 says, **You, O LORD, laugh at them; you scoff at all the nations.** Ps 115 says, **Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?" But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases** (2-3). We see God's sense of humor when Pharaoh wants to wipe out the Israelite males, but his own daughter rescues & raises one who eventually delivers all Israel. Pharaoh had drowned Jewish male babies but God has the last laugh in that Pharaoh's army drowns instead. It's like Haman building gallows to hang the Jews but it becomes his own noose instead. It's like your own kids, when you told them not to step across a line & they defiantly do. You spank them & they look at you & say, *That didn't hurt!* While you may feel like laughing, as that tiny person tries to assert their power & authority over you, you know it's a serious moment. Remember, God is not mocked, we reap what we sow (Gal 6:7). If you mock God & don't repent, His wrath will one day strike you. Sin is no joke but He can't help a sovereign smile at man's stupid rebellion. God isn't amused by sin, but when His creatures shake their fists at Him, it's ridiculous. Today, God is still speaking to the nations in His grace & calling them to trust His Son. But the day will come when He speaks to them in His wrath & sends judgment upon the world (Rev 6-19). If people won't accept God's judgment of sin at the cross & trust Jesus, they'll have to accept God's judgment of themselves & their sins. The psalmist now moves to...

3. Christ's Reign (7-9) The language of decree in vs 7 takes us back to eternity past, a decree from God the Father to God the Son who's eternally begotten, who has no beginning. He's the only

⁹ Robert Lowry, *Christ Arose*

begotten Son, meaning He's the unique & only Son of God. When Jesus was baptized, **a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son"** (Lk 3:22), but the fulfillment of Ps 2:7 is after Jesus rose. Acts 13:33 tells us, **God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the 2nd Psalm, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You.'** Paul says in Rom 1:4, **Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.** Heb 1:3-5 tells us, **When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?**

Ps 2:7 speaks of the resurrected, ascended, exalted, & enthroned Jesus, the King over the raging nations.

It was decreed that honor should await Him as God's co-eternal Son. For a brief period His deity was hidden. In outward appearance He differed little from the sons of men. Occasionally heavenly rays broke forth; but the sun's brightness was eclipsed. Thus, as man, He suffered & died. The resurrection-morn arrives. He strides forth the mighty Conqueror of death & hell. The glorious rising has a glorious voice. With trumpet-tongue it tells the wondering world, Jesus is God's Son! this day removes all doubt! this day unveils Him!¹⁰

& notice, He'll be given the nations as His inheritance. Those who hate Him will be His heritage & those who plot against will be His possession. They think they can win, but God says, *No, I own you.* They think they can bring the end of Christianity on earth, but God promises His Son the ends of the earth will bow to Him. The Father says, **Ask of Me, & I will give the nations.** In Jn 17:20-24 the Son asks of Him, not just for disciples from the nation of Israel, but for all God gives, that the raging nations will become praising nations, every tribe & tongue. It's said that this vs promising nations to Christ was one of the vss that fueled the modern missions movement, as Christ's people joined Christ's prayer asking for the nations to be given to Him as His possession as they took the gospel to **the very ends of the earth** (8). Vs 9 reminds us He will come again. As Rev 19:15 says, at the 2nd coming He will **strike down the nations, & He will rule them with a rod of iron; & He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God.** We see the final attempt of Ps 2's multi-national defiance in Rev 11.

The nations were enraged, & Your wrath came, & the time *came* for the dead to be judged, & *the time* to reward Your bond-servants... the seventh angel sounded; & there were loud voices in heaven,

¹⁰ Henry Law, *The Gospel in Psalms, Psalm 2*

saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord & of His Christ; & He will reign forever & ever” (15, 18).

God has a plan & schedule to deal with man’s rebellion & it all centers on the person & the power of God’s Messiah, His Anointed One, Jesus Christ.

Obviously, vs 7 goes beyond David to Jesus. This vs is quoted several times in the NT with reference to Jesus (Acts 13:33; Heb 1:5; 5:5). It plunges us into deep theological waters we can never fully fathom. If we could, God wouldn’t be God. While using human terms to describe God so we can understand Him to some degree, the relationship between the 1st & 2nd Persons of the Trinity is expressed as that of Father & Son. This doesn’t imply any inequality or that there was a point in time that Jesus was begotten of the Father, because then He wouldn’t be eternal. The Scriptures teach, & followers of Jesus for centuries have agreed, that Jesus is eternally the unique Son of God, the 2nd person of the Trinity. When Ps 2:7 says, **You are My Son, today I have begotten You**, either it refers to the day of the eternal decree, when Christ was declared to be the Son of God.¹¹ Since the decree is eternal, Christ’s Sonship is eternal. Or that *day* refers to the time when Christ’s identity was demonstrated, when the Father bore witness to Christ as being His own Son, which was primarily through the resurrection (Rom 1:4).¹² But both views hold that Jesus is eternally the Son of God. God’s predetermined plan for dealing with man’s rebellion involves Jesus the Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ, the eternal Son of God, whom God sent into the world to pay the penalty for man’s rebellion (Jn 3:16; Gal 4:4). Jesus died according to the predetermined plan & foreknowledge of God at the hands of godless men (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28). But God raised Him from the dead & He ascended to heaven, where He’s now waiting to return with power. That’s the next phase of God’s plan. Jesus, risen from the dead, will return to this earth in power & glory to crush all opposition & reign in righteousness from David’s throne. John describes his vision of Jesus in that great day like this:

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, & He will rule them with a rod of iron; & He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. & on His robe & on His thigh He has a name written, “King of kings, & Lord of lords” (Rev 19:15-16).

¹¹ John Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*, p 41

¹² *Calvin’s Commentaries*, 2:129-130

At the end of Christ's 1,000-year reign, Satan & all who follow him will be thrown into the Lake of Fire where they'll be tormented forever (Rev 20:10-15). That's God's plan for dealing with rebellious man & with Satan & His forces. His plan involves His Anointed Son, the eternal Son of God, who is going to return to this earth in power to put down all rebellion & to rule in righteousness. How should we respond to all we see in vss 1-9? We find out in ...

4. David's Remarks (10-12) It isn't just the proud kings of David's day who've rebelled against the Lord & His Anointed. The Bible tells us, **All have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God** (Rom 3:23). We've all, in our own way, said toward God, **Let us tear their fetters apart & cast away their cords from us** (Ps 2:3). We've all said, *I'll do it my way!* You'd think that everyone would welcome God's Messiah who came to save us from our sins. But the issue isn't just salvation. Jesus didn't come to save us so we'd have a ticket to heaven & then go our own way. No, He's our King now & we are to further His kingdom faithfully. The issue is one of lordship. The Lord's Anointed is the King who will reign, if not by our willing submission now, then by forced submission when He comes again. He doesn't take 2nd place to anyone. Every knee shall bow (Phil 2:10). The urging of vss 10-12 applies to every one of us. The urgency of submitting to Christ is expressed by the phrase, **His wrath may soon be kindled** (12). The 1st time He came in mercy, to save. The 2nd time He'll come in wrath, to judge. The end time events predicted in the Bible will happen, just as it is written. But even if His coming is delayed, you have no guarantee that you'll have another day on this earth. If you don't submit to Jesus before you die, you'll face the wrath of His judgment (Heb 9:27). As Matthew Henry put it, *Those that will not bow shall break.*¹³ & so...

A. Be Wise & Warned (10) All people must show discernment & take warning. The end hasn't yet come. There's still time to be wise & accept God's Anointed Son as King in faithful submission to Him. Stop the rebellion. Submit to the King.

B. Be Repentant & Reverent (11) **Worship** or **serve the LORD with fear...** This is a call to drop your weapons & fall to the ground in **worship** & **fear**. It's a call to unconditional surrender, to submit as a lowly servant in awe as you serve your King today. Some will tell you fearing the Lord has nothing

¹³ Commentary on Psalm 2

to do with fright, but notice the end of vs 11 mentions **trembling**. There is reverence & rejoicing in this vs but there's also a real element of **fear & trembling**. There is such a thing as a sanctifying scare, a holy hush, a trusting **trembling**. All people should bow in submission & fear before God. We must submit to Christ as Savior & Lord before He returns in judgment, so that we do not **perish in the way**.

C. Embrace & Exalt Christ (11) The end of vs 11 commands ...**rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son or kiss the Son, that He not become angry & you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled.** Jesus isn't just love, He has anger & wrath that flare up if you reject His love. Why is He **angry** & why does His wrath make sinners **perish**? Because sin is missing the mark. It's not like we're trying for a bullseye & almost hit it. We say, *Nobody's perfect so what's the big deal that makes us deserve death?* No, we should see our sin as if we turn the bow & arrow & aim directly at God Himself. We want to take God out or at least take Him out of the picture, like vs 3 says. We don't want Him to rule or set the rules. Sin is rebellion & treason against the King. That's why it's so serious. A king must bring rebels to justice. But instead of the death we deserve, there's mercy for all who *kiss the Son*. We must run to Jesus in faith, fall at His feet with **trembling**, & kiss His nail-pierced feet. Give **homage** to the King who knows you intimately. Show honor to Him who wrote your name on His hands & heart. Show affection to the Kinsman-Redeemer as the bride whose banner over you is love (Song of Solomon 2:4). If you don't yet love Him, embrace Him by faith before it's too late. If you turn from your sin & trust in Him, **blessed are all who take refuge in Him**. Take refuge in Christ by embracing & clinging to Him & living faithfully for Him. Rejoice with **trembling**, fearful but thankful. **Blessed**, happy, are all who trust, who totally live in faith to Christ. Don't be those in vs 3 who foolishly try to cast Him off. Instead, join in the worship of those who cast their crowns at His feet. Embrace & exalt the Lord of Ps 2, the Sovereign Son over the nations. Don't be dismayed by the godless nations, including ours, because God isn't. Don't lose hope in God or find hope in the wrong things. Put your hope & faith in the One who sits in the throne room of heaven itself. The only alternative to defying God is to accept His invitation to **take refuge in Him** (12). This is a phrase used in the Psalms to describe the attitude of those who put their trust

in God & take shelter under His protection (Ps 5:11; 7:1; 11:1). That's the only way which leads to true happiness.¹⁴ This is God's gracious invitation: **How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!** Don't run from God; run to Him! Derek Kidner rightly says, *There is no refuge from Him: only in Him.*¹⁵ As we see the ungodliness in the world around us, we can be truly **blessed** by taking refuge in our God. The early church took refuge in Him by praying Ps 2 as they faced persecution (Acts 4:23-35). In our troubled times, when it looks as if the enemy is winning, we can do the same. Let's join the early church in doing everything we can to make Christ Lord of all nations, beginning with ourselves, one person at a time. Our sovereign God will ultimately triumph! The rulers of this world rage against Christ. But why should you? The hands He holds forth for you to kiss are hands that were pierced by nails when He was crucified in your place. One day He's coming as the great Judge. On that day the wicked will be punished, but today is the day of His grace. He invites you to come to Him. **Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.** That's a reminder that the only **refuge** from the wrath of God is God's mercy found at the cross of Jesus Christ.¹⁶ The psalmist leaves you the choice. Will you be broken or **blessed**? If you've fallen away from your loyal submission to Christ, this morning He invites you to return to Him. He promises to all who come to Him a **refuge**. No matter how dark your sin, no matter how serious your rebellion, Jesus offers mercy & **refuge** to all who come to Him in faith, confessing their sins & seeking His mercy. The only way we can watch the news of this troubled world & remain faithfully optimistic is if we've taken **refuge** in our sovereign God, who has even the proud rebellion of wicked men under His control.

¹⁴ Robert Davidson, *The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, International Theological Commentary, p 18

¹⁵ *Psalms*, 1:53

¹⁶ James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms 1-41: An Expository Commentary*, p 27