

## **Declared The Son of God With Power**

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:15-29

Hymn #205- *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

1st Scripture: Acts 13:13-41

Hymn #206- *Low in the Grave He Lay*

2nd Scripture: Psalm 2

Hymn #690- *All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name*

### **Introduction**

Throughout all of the history of this world, there has always been three very active "wills," which have been presented in time and space. First, of course (and from eternity, for that matter), there has always been the will of God. And within the context of this world, we find that "will of God" very clearly expressed in the ways, in which, He has communicated and related to man from the beginning. In the present, that will is found in the completed Canon of the Scriptures, God's complete and final revelation.

Second, there is the will of Satan, who having rebelled against God, seeking to usurp the authority of God for his own glory and exaltation, has veered away from the revealed, divine will, ultimately setting a fruitless course unto his own destruction.

And then finally, there is the will of man, who likewise, in cooperating with Satan, has rebelled against God, setting his own course for supposed independence, while really serving the vain purposes of the deceptive serpent, ultimately sharing in the same fruitless course that leads to destruction.

Three wills, with two, ultimately proceeding and merging out of the One, onto a course of destruction, because the One alone, can, must and will prevail. Now consider this, brethren. Out of every single event that has stood upon the stage of history, there is no other event that has more powerfully revealed the dominant will of God, over the wills of devils and men; no other event has so loudly and overwhelmingly trounced upon the plans of fallen created beings, declaring, "God's will is unalterable, undefeated and will be fulfilled to the degree of hair splitting," than the event of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we ought to celebrate every Sunday, and perhaps, every day, for that matter!

This morning, we turn again to that glorious event, as it is powerfully revealed, here in our main text, in Psalm 2.

## **I. The Nations Rage (vs. 1-3)**

The introduction to this Psalm is clearly confrontational, beginning with a rhetorical question that brings out the utter foolishness of the creature contending with his God. And, it is like the headline of a popular newspaper, meant to grab the attention of the readers, in big bold print:

"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?"

And so, the question here, brings us into the visual perspective of God, as it were, looking down upon the earth, questioning a great, proud and arrogant stir among the peoples, who dwell on the earth. And within his visual sights, as it were, he sees a world of little people (dust specks, as it were), angry, determined and in a fit of rage, believing that what they are doing will most certainly succeed. The people are unaware of God's universal presence, or His direct involvement in all that is going on. They do what they do, as if, they are in control, and as if, nothing can stop them.

And they are said to plot a vain (or worthless) thing, because their plans are in contention with the will of God. Though they utilize all of their intelligence combined; though they unite all of their strength and exert every force within their power to achieve their will, it is a vain task, because they are foolishly contending with God, Himself! They are but ants, building a tower of dirt in the sand, thinking they will have their way, when the slightest breath of the Lord could easily blow apart all of their plans in an instant. "Why do they rage? Why do they proudly set themselves in battle array and charge against the will of God, plotting and planning a vain thing, as if, God doesn't see, or as if, God is incapable of overcoming their plans?"

Notice, the Psalmist gets more specific in verse 2, describing the actions of these vain nations, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed (Messiah)..."

Ahh, now the historical context of this treachery begins to come into focus. Clarity is set before us. What is going on here? Kings and rulers; the mighty and the powerful of the world, have joined together for a common cause. They have conspired together to defeat and to oust and to overthrow...God! And how have they done this? By their looking to snuff out the Lord's Anointed; the One, whom God has sent to accomplish all of His preordained, redemptive will on

earth. They want nothing to do with this Messiah! Though His miracles and His Words and His Holy life testify to the divine authority that rests upon Him; though He is the chosen One, who would redeem man, and restore order in the world, delivering a universal kingdom to God, they want no part of it. They are more than content exercising their own, corrupt and tyrannical rule over the world that never belonged to them. They want to secure their high and lofty positions. They want to sustain the praise of the people for themselves. Though they dare not say so directly, they are in conflict with the living God, Himself. They would do fine, imagining a God, who has created all things, only to leave all that He has created alone, so that they can receive the glory that belongs to the true architect and builder.

And so, they contend with God, by contending with His visible, express image, the Lord Jesus Christ. They take counsel together, plotting to execute Him, and to oust Him from His own creation...casting Him out of His own vineyard. And as the Jews and the Romans conspire together; as they mock Him and beat Him and crucify Him; indeed, as they hear Him cry out, seemingly in vain, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me!," and as they watch His head fall limp into His chest, with no more air to fill His lungs, they think they have succeeded! They think that they have won! He is gone! And they can continue on where they left off. They have cast the divine restraints (the divine will) away from them, and death has secured their victory!

Verse 3 continues, "...saying, Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." "We will not serve this God! We will not bow before His Anointed! We will do what we want to do, when we want to do it, and how we want to do it, and nothing can stop us!" "The cords of the divine will are broken!"

Such was the heart of man; both Jew and Gentile, when the Christ entered our world, as the true King of all creation. And such has been the heart of man, from the beginning; from the moment our first parents fell in the Garden of Eden. Mankind has always sought to usurp the authority of God, striving to enact his own, sinful, rebellious will, independent of the God, who created us (and all things) for His own glory. And so, what has been true from the beginning, was blatantly shown in the most horrific of displays, when man crucified the Lord of Glory. Fallen man has always desired to execute his God. And he thought he had succeeded. The

nations raged. The nations plotted. But, it is a vain and worthless thing, to arrogantly assume, for even a second, that man could actually defeat his God.

## **II. God Laughs!**

Again, looking through the eyes of our God, who sees mankind building his tower of rebellion against God, how does God respond? How does God respond to what He sees in man's feeble attempts to cast off His bonds, in the murdering of His Anointed? Well, moving on then into verses 4-5, we are carried away from looking through the eyes of God, to peering at God, Himself. And there, we are able to view God's expressions, as it were.

And just when you might be tempted to think that God might be weeping over a loss, or frustrated by the united efforts of man, you notice that He is unshaken and not moved in the slightest. It's, as if, He has everything under His control...almost, as if, He has planned all of this, as horrific as it seems, from the beginning...like things are going right according to plan? But, how could the rejection, humiliation and crucifixion of His Anointed; His Son, whom He has sent, actually be part of His plan? And then you notice, not only is He not fazed in the slightest, but He...He actually laughs?

Verse 4, "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh..." He's not even standing or pacing around. He's completely at ease...and He laughs? Why? "The Lord shall hold them in derision." God responds to all of those who rebel against Him; to kings and rulers, and all combined, who would dare push against His will...by ridiculing them. He beholds their ignorant arrogance and their blatant pride, and He sees them as petty, and incapable of lifting, let alone, removing, the finest thread, connected to His impenetrable will. Now, understand. This is not God being the bully at school, mocking and picking on the scrawny kid with glasses, on the playground. This is the patient and gracious Creator, responding to the utter arrogance and pride of dust. This is Almighty, Holy God, looking upon a worm that is convinced, by its own warped thinking and rebellious heart, that it is larger than life and capable of casting mountains into the sea. This is eternal God, witnessing the utter debauchery of mankind, who has crucified the Son of God, thinking they have attained the victory against God.

After laughing at the utter foolishness and pride of man, we see God's expression change once more. Only, this time, it is an expression of justice. They have struck God, and now, it is His turn. It is His move.

Verse 5, "Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure...". He will respond, in turn. He will justly deal with their rebellion. He will speak to them in His wrath. Now, that doesn't seem so bad, does it? Can words of wrath really harm? Well, when they come from a God, who speaks worlds into existence, who commands the winds and the waves and they obey Him, who gives and takes life and who orders the entire universe by the breath of His lips...yes, that can be a frightful thing! And, even as they have sought to distress Him in the distressing of His Son, He will turn the tables on them. Indeed, their perceived victory, will become their very defeat! How so?

### **III. God's Anointed Will Reign!**

Verse 6: "Yet I have set My King (the King of my ordination and choice) on My holy hill of Zion!" You see, the nations sought to oust God's Anointed King! They cast His cords off, and would have nothing to do with Him. Indeed, they murdered Him and cast Him off of the earth! They claimed Zion for themselves. But, here God speaks, and uses a personal pronoun twice, referencing Himself, stating that His chosen King would be set, fixed, established on His holy hill of Zion. Zion is the Lord's! The world is the Lord's! Everything belongs to God; the earth and all of its contents, and all of the people who dwell on it! They all belong to God! You belong to God! I belong to God! We all belong to God! And His will, will be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven! He has determined to Anoint His Son, as the rightful King over all things, and over Zion! And therefore, it will happen! And what is the point here? That, although they have killed the Christ, they have not succeeded in ridding the world of God's Holy Anointed! The implication is that the very King of God's choice, would yet reign, such that even death itself, could not prevent God from accomplishing all of His Holy will! Indeed, God would exalt His Anointed One by the very means of death even! God has set Him there, and therefore, His kingdom will be established forever!

Verse 7, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." The religious leaders and the rulers have rejected the Christ. His own disciples fled from his side, at the threat of their own lives. But God affirms His decree! When everyone else is ashamed, resentful or arrogant, He declares this humiliated, dejected One to be His Son, and He does so with power! What is the ultimate affirmation of the glorious Sonship of Christ? Yes, we might think of his incarnation, where angels and wise men worshiped Him. And we might think further of His baptism, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove and the Father broke into the earth's sound barrier with the verbal declaration of His approval of, and pleasure in His Son! And then, we might consider that glorious occasion, when three of His disciples, joined Jesus on the mountain where He was transfigured. There, God broke into time and space with His voice again, when He once again affirmed the Sonship of Christ and commanded that He be obeyed.

But Brethren, the grandest and loudest declaration of the reality of Christ's eternal Sonship was made, when the Father raised His Son, up from the dead, and exalted Him as king over all realms, giving Him all authority in heaven and on earth, and the Name, which is above every Name! And it is right here, when this glorious statement is made, that the Father makes this declaration with exceptional power! When He states His decree here, right in the face of every arrogant opposing force, that has sought to shake off the bonds and cords of God's will, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You," He elevates Christ infinitely out of His humility, giving Him the highest position ever to be given, as the only begotten Son of God! This title, attributed to the resurrected Christ, both, affirms the unalterable sovereignty of God's decree (His will), and stands in the face of any and all, who would dare despise, reject or ignore this Christ! Despise the son of a worldly monarchy, and know your doom is near and certain. Despise the Son of God, who, having been raised from the dead, has defeated death itself, and know your doom is near, certain and without end!

Verse 8 continues, "Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession...". "Those nations which rage against you, and the entire earth and all it contains, for that matter, all belong to You, and are subject to Your authority and charge."

We've heard the expression of kings of the past, when they said to someone that has greatly earned their respect, "Ask me for anything, and I will give it to you...up to half the kingdom (King Ahasueras to Esther, Herod to the daughter of Herodius...etc). Well here, the God and Creator of all things, offers up the entire creation, as an inheritance and a possession to the now risen, God-Man!

And what of those who continue to rebel? What of those who continue to oppose, reject or ignore the divine will? What of those who continue to shake off the cords and bonds of the decree of God in the exaltation of His Son? Verse 9 continues, "You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Given all power and authority, this Anointed One, who has finished His mission of humiliation, will ultimately destroy all who oppose Him, and who refuse to submit to His rule and reign. They will be broken. Like a potter's clay vessel, which the potter sees as unfit for any good use, they will be smashed and shattered to pieces by the Potter Himself. He will no longer subject Himself to their foolish rage, since the redemption of His people has already been accomplished. He now responds to the world's rebellion, as a glorious, wrathful King! The Lamb of the elect is a Lion to His enemies!

#### **IV. A Final Call to Respond**

Having looked through the eyes of God to a rebellious creation, and having looked at the expression of God, in response to that rebellious creation, finally, the Psalmist would have us (and all of mankind) turn our attention to the mirror, that inevitably exists in front of us. In other words, there is a call to respond. And that being the case, shows that, even now, God is willing to extend grace and mercy to those who respond in the proper way. God opens a door of hope, but it is not without a significant warning attached to it. For this door, is temporary, and will soon be shut.

verses 10-12, "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."

Directed first, to the rulers of all the earth, as those who represent the nations subject to them, but also applicable to all peoples, as the last statement clearly affirms, God calls all people to lay down their arms of rebellion; to repent of their designs to contend with His will, and to make peace with the Son, whom they once sought to destroy. He calls the rulers to think; to meditate upon their own foolishness of seeking to cast aside the righteous boundaries and restraints of God's glorious will, and to reconsider...to be wise and to receive instruction from their almighty, all sovereign God. And He charges them to now bow to His will; to turn away from serving their own selfish and ungodly interests, and to serve the living and true God, in accordance with His impenetrable, divine, revealed will. To serve the Lord with fear; to live not as an atheist in word or in practice, but to live in a way, which acknowledges the reality of God's perpetual presence. To honor and obey Him with fear; fear of His glorious eternal power and majestic divinity. And to rejoice as an obedient follower of His; to take pleasure in His marvelous, gracious presence, with trembling. In other words, with real joy, but not in a way that lacks the due respect that belongs to Him as God. To hallow His Name.

And then, to kiss the Son. To make peace with God's Anointed, the Son of His love, highly exalted and begotten with power! For this, is the only safe route forward for rulers, for kings and for all creatures. You're either with Him or against Him. And if you are against Him, then you will perish in the way. Your path will end in eternal destruction...even when His wrath is kindled but a little. In other words, don't toy with the Son of God, but respond now, immediately! Don't take His grace for granted, but come, today, right now, before it is too late! Seek Him, while He offers you the slain Lamb, and not when He turns against you, as a fierce lion!

"Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him!"

## **V. Concluding Charge**

Friends, having considered this glorious text, containing the rebellion of man and the response of God, let us now bring this home to our own hearts, for the next few moments, before we close.



Blessed are those who put their trust in Him. Let me ask you, this morning, friends, have you truly put your trust in this Jesus, the Anointed Son of God? Have you repented of your sins and your natural rebellion against God, and have you put your faith and trust in this Christ, subjecting yourself to His everlasting reign and dominion?

1) If you have; to those of you who are truly in Christ this morning, my Brethren, we have every reason to rejoice all the days of our lives! For, the resurrection of Christ, is not only the exaltation of His eternal dominion (to which, we gladly submit), but furthermore, it is the great declaration of our justification! The death of Christ has removed the entire curse, merited by all of our sins, and the resurrection of Christ boldly affirms our righteous standing before God and our justification in our union with Christ! Indeed, His resurrection is the first fruits of ours! It is the assurance of our eternal destiny in the presence of our holy God! We are blessed, brethren, beyond comprehension! It's not, that many more nights, until we will wake up in the presence of our God. His delight in us is certain and we will not be ashamed!

2) But, oh friends, if you are not trusting in Christ, this morning, then you stand upon the wings of God's eternal wrath and judgment. The very Savior, who was raised unto the blessing and glory of His people, is the very Savior, who will exercise His righteous judgment against you. You will not stand in the day of judgment. You will perish in your sins, and the advocate of many, will be your adversary then. Won't you turn this morning, away from your fragile, temporal, kingdom of dust, and bow your knee before the risen Savior and King, before it is too late! Don't live with eternal regret! Don't die in your sin, where the door of grace will be forever shut, with no future opportunity of changing your eternal state!

Amen!!!

**Benediction:** Jude 1:24-25