

## Psalm 2 - The Resurrection

### 1. The Joy of the Resurrection.

Of the various holidays we celebrate, Easter is the most joyous Christian Holy Day. As Baptists, we do not think in terms of Holy Days of Obligation. According to some religious systems, if you fail to recognize those days, you are in sin. That does not mean that we don't have a sense of the sacred on those days. They are sacred according to what they cause us to remember. By comparison, there are some holidays in which we take time to give special recognition for important ideals such as Memorial Day, President Day, Independence Day, etc. And then we have holidays that have a Christian and spiritual importance to us.

The modern celebration of Thanksgiving humbles us to recognize that we are not the source of our strength and success, that God is. In older times pagan practices were in competition with Christmas which was celebrated to various degrees. The old mythical paganism died out so that peace on earth and good will toward men through Christ was more easily seen in Christmas. People across time always try to bring in pagan or worldly elements to their celebration. Some are bothered by the word Easter itself because the name comes from *Ishtar*, a pagan goddess. The word *Easter* is used to translate *pascha*, or Passover, in the Bible but only because it is a cosmological term. It does not mean that we are celebrating a pagan day anymore than we are celebrating the Sun god on *Sun* day, or the moon god on *Moon* day, or any of the other days which are named after other gods whose names you might recognize from the days of the week such as Tewe, Wodin, Thor, Friga, or Saturn, let alone the months which you might recognize from the names of the pagan gods Janus, Februs, Mars, Maia, Juno, Julius Caesar, or Caesar Augustus. It *should* be easy to distinguish any pagan notions because it doesn't take much to see how ludicrous it is to associate rabbits and colored eggs with the Cross and the Glory of the Empty Tomb.

Thanksgiving is humbling, Christmas is peaceful, and Easter is full of joy. Joy is the best word to associate with Easter. Joy was a chief word associated with the Resurrection.

John 16:19-22 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

21 A woman when she is in travail

hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

22And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

John 17:11-13 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

...

13And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Acts 2:27-28 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

28Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

We talk about joy as something that depends on what is *within* us as opposed to happiness which is dependent on something that happens *to* us. The power of our joy comes from the power of the Resurrection.

## 2. The prophecy of the Resurrection.

We have looked at the *Hallel*, or Praise, Psalms leading up to the Passion Week. We arrived at Psalm 118 for the Triumphal Entry of Christ on Palm Sunday. We proceeded to consider the Betrayal of Christ according to Psalms 41 and 55. We next saw the Crucifixion of Christ based on Psalm 22. If you didn't do an internet search already, you would be right in guessing that there is a Resurrection Psalm. Although there are other references to the Resurrection in the Psalms, it is Psalm 2 that is The Resurrection Psalm. Although we will see *how* the Psalm relates to the resurrection later, knowing that it does will put the first part of the Psalm into perspective.

At first glance, you can tell that there is a great mob that is gathered against the Lord.

Psalm 2:1-5 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

3Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their

cords from us.

4He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

David writes of the kings of the earth and rulers taking counsel together, but when you take into account that this is about the resurrection then you realize this is more than just an ordinary crowd. The extreme scope of the mob including the kings of the *earth*, the rulers, and raging heathen makes us mindful of the powers *behind* the thrones. The prophet Ezekiel in a moment of revelation identifies the power behind the earthly thrones when he prophesied against the king of Tyre:

Ezek 28:12-19 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19All they that know thee among

the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

Paul identified those powers when he wrote to the Ephesians:

Eph 6:11-13 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

When we read Psalm 2:1-3 we get a picture of not only the kings of the earth, but also all the demonic powers behind the thrones of every kingdom. We can see them sitting in a demonic counsel not only against the Lord, but specifically against His *anointed*, that is, Jesus Christ. The basis for the words Messiah and Christ is the word anointed, so there is no mistake Who is in question here. That demonic host has stirred up the heathen to a rage. Their imaginations have gone wild in creating vain, empty, powerless religions and systems against all that is Godly. That also pretty much describes what we see in our modern culture now! And what do they cry out for? That the bands and cords they see as holding them back from fulfilling their demonic insanity be cut asunder and cast away.

But then, look at God's reaction:

Ps 2:4-6 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

6Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

A key element of humor is absurdity. Absurdity is standard for comedians. The idea of the forces of darkness thinking they can stand against God is infinitely absurd. The idea that God sitting in the heavens should laugh at such absurdity is entirely appropriate. And then the hammer comes down. God spoke out in His wrath and sore displeasure, "In your face! There...there on my holy hill of Zion! *There* is my answer!" And *there* stood the resurrected Christ. Those demonic powers must have looked like Yucca Flats after the blast.<sup>1</sup> And then came the great declaration of the decree from the sovereign God who transcends

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<sup>1</sup>Yucca Flats was a key nuclear test sight in Nevada where 739 nuclear explosion tests took place.

all power and space and time:

Ps 2:7 I will declare the decree:  
the LORD hath said unto me,  
Thou *art* my Son; this day have I  
begotten thee.

That, my friends, is the resurrection. You might miss it if it wasn't for the build up that came before it. You have to know that this declaration can't be small if all the kings of the earth and the rulers and the heathen are raging against it. You know it has to be big if it was spoken in regard to the anointed one. So let's get a little help from Paul in Acts 13 where he is addressing the Jewish synagogue in Antioch in Asia Minor. They knew that this Psalm was understood to be about the Messiah. They also knew that the term *sons of God* were glorified beings because that was a term also used for angels who are glorified beings. These two concepts were not foreign to them. Paul brought it all together for them.

Acts 13:22-23,32-33 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

32And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

The Jehovah's Witnesses would love to suggest that this indicates that Jesus was a created being, but the plain truth is that *being begotten as a son of God* refers to the resurrection where we inherit a glorified body. As Paul told the synagogue, Jesus was born of David according to the flesh and was *begotten as a son* in that He received the glorified body. Paul repeats this to the Romans.

Rom 1:3-4 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

And he repeats this again in Rom 8:

Rom 8:8-9,11,23,29-30 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. [**We are born in the flesh**]

9But ye are not in the flesh, but in

the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

11But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **[We are born again in the spirit]**

23And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. **[We are adopted, or become sons of God, in the resurrection. We enjoy this standing spiritually, but it will be fulfilled physically in the resurrection sonship]**

29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **[Jesus was the first born from among the dead.]**

30Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. **[All those who are sons of God are those who are glorified in their resurrection]**

1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

1Cor 15:51-57 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

56The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then comes the final part of Psalm 2 regarding the reward of those who accept Christ and the end of those

who reject Christ.

Ps 2:8-9 Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

**[For those who reject Him,]**  
9Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

The world will ultimately have to admit that the only thing left for those who reject Him will be utter destruction.

But then comes the reward of those who accept Him:

Ps 2:10-12 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.  
11Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.  
12Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

He say "Be wise." We need to wise up, get smart, take the Word of God seriously because in the Bible is where all the answers are. And then he says "Kiss the son", or *make peace* with the Son. When we read in vs. 12 "Blessed are all they that put their trust in him," that is an understatement. The blessing we have is for all eternity as the sons of God, glorified beings in the resurrection when we trust in Him.

### 3. The power of the Resurrection.

When we looked at the crucifixion we saw that it was only one part of our salvation. Paul explained it this way when he was writing about how Abraham was saved by faith. It was by faith that we are saved, but he specifically said that it was because of the resurrection that we are justified:

Rom 4:24-25 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;  
25Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Jesus was delivered to be crucified for our offenses, but it was by the resurrection that we are actually justified, or made righteous. By the crucifixion is the payment for salvation made, and by the resurrection is the payment for salvation applied.

We quote Rom 10:13 to explain that we are saved the moment we ask Christ for salvation, but look at that verse along with verse 12:

Rom 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord

Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Without the resurrection, there is no salvation.

1Cor 15:13-19 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

15Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Because of the resurrection we are made new:

Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

To be *quickened* means to be made alive. Jesus was never spiritually dead, only physically. He was quickened in His resurrection. We *were* spiritually dead but when we became one with Christ our spirit was quickened, made alive, along with Jesus *in His resurrection*. Being quickened together with Him in His resurrection opened up many new vistas for us.

- We are now seated in heavenly places because we are in Christ:

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

- We have the mind of Christ because we are in Him:

1Cor 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.



- We have power over sin:

Rom 6:4-12 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:

6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

- We are spiritually gifted:

Eph 4:7-8 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

- We have a certainty over our future:

Eph 1:5,13-14 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

13In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Now it remains for us to live the resurrected life.

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Gal 5:16,25 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

As we reflect on the Easter season, we need to be challenged to live the resurrection. Our life is not defeated, only challenged. We are not victims *of* the world, we are victors *over* the world.

Rom 8:34-39 Who *is* he that condemneth? **[Who is he that would reign over us?]** *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. **[It is because of Christ's resurrection that we have power.]**

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

...

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Living the resurrection will give us boldness and confidence when we witness, when we make plans serving God, when we feel the struggle and keep going on anyhow, as Paul prayed for the Colossians that they be...

Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

1. The Joy of the Resurrection. John 16:19-22, 17:11-13, Acts 2:27-28
2. The prophecy of the Resurrection. Psalm 2:1-5, Ezek 28:12-19, Eph 6:11-13, Ps 2:4-7, Acts 13:22-23, 32-33, Rom 1:3-4, 8:8-9, 11, 23, 29-30, 1Cor 15:20, 15:51-57, Ps 2:8-12

3. The power of the Resurrection. Rom 4:24-25, 10:9-10, 1Cor 15:13-19, Eph 2:5-6, 1:3, 1Cor 2:16, Rom 6:4-12, Eph 4:7-8, 1:5,13-14, Rom 8:5, Gal 5:16,25 , Rom 12:1-2, 8:34-39, Col 1:11