

“Worship the King”
(Psalm 2)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we considered biblical prosperity.
 - a. Who it is that receives the blessing of the Lord. What the qualifications are.
 - (i) He doesn't listen to or follow the ways of the world.
 - (ii) He doesn't walk on the broad path to destruction.
 - (iii) He doesn't ridicule those seeking to serve the Lord.
 - (iv) But He meditates on God's Law; he delights in it because God does, and governs his life by that Law.
 - b. We also saw the blessings he receives.
 - (i) He will be spiritually healthy/full of God's Spirit, like a well-watered and fruitful tree.
 - (ii) What he does will prosper, for all he does, he does in the service of his Lord.
 - (iii) He will receive a fuller reward on the Day of God's Judgment.
2. We also saw what happens when to those who choose not to walk in the path of obedience.
 - a. They will be barren and fruitless, worthless like chaff.
 - b. The wrath of God will pursue them.
 - c. They will be rejected on the Day of Judgment.
 - d. They will be burned with fire forever.
3. At the outset, the psalmist reminds us that there is a path of life and death, of blessing and curse, to remind us to choose life.

B. Preview.

1. In our psalm this morning, we see that spiritual prosperity is again located in obedience, but more specifically in obedience to the King.
 - a. The psalmist writes: “Worship the Lord with reverence . . . Do homage to the Son . . . How blessed are all who take refuge in Him” (v. 12)!
 - b. This is the same obedience and blessing Psalm 1 speaks about.
 - (i) The obedience is the same: to worship the Lord is to obey Him.
 - (ii) It is the same blessing: spiritual fullness, peace and blessedness.
 - (iii) This is what should be in our hearts; this is what we should be pursuing with all our might.
 - (iv) Thomas Watson writes, “Love puts a man upon the full use of all means to enjoy the thing loved. He that loves the world, how active is he! He will break his peace and sleep for it. He that loves honor, what hazards will he run. He will swim to the throne in blood. . . . Love heaven, and you cannot miss it; love breaks through all opposition-it takes heaven by storm” (Puritan Treasury).
 - c. The difference between Psalm 1 and Psalm 2 is that it ties this obedience more directly to our submission to Christ as our King.
 - (i) We must believe , we must trust, we must take refuge in Him.

- (ii) We must bear His fruit, submit to His will.
 - (iii) Realizing at the same time that it is God who does this work in us.
 - (a) These are the fruits of redemption, not the cause of it.
 - (b) But we must still pursue them to obtain them: the godly man presses on toward righteous.
2. This blessing is sharply contrasted with the curse upon those who don't worship Him.
 - a. It represents the kings of the nations taking their stand *against* the Lord and His anointed (vv. 1-3).
 - b. It tells us what God thinks about this: He laughs; He mocks them (v. 4).
 - c. What He will do to them: He will terrify them (v. 5).
 - d. And what He will do in spite of their resistance: He will install His King on Mount Zion (vv. 6-8).
 - e. This King will rule with a rod of iron, shattering those who oppose Him (v. 9).
 - f. And so the psalmist warns us to worship the Lord, and honor His Son (vv. 10-12).
 - (i) If we do, we will be blessed (v. 12b).
 - (ii) If we don't, we will be destroyed (v. 12a).
 3. This morning, I want us to look at three things:
 - a. God set up His Son as King: none can successfully oppose Him.
 - b. What God intends to do to those who oppose His King: destroy them.
 - c. What God will do for those who worship and honor His King: bless them.
 - d. Finally, we will look at the implications of these things for us personally and for our nation.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, let's consider that God set His Son up as King in spite of all opposition.
 1. Remember that this psalm is prophetic.
 - a. It was written several hundred years before these events.
 - b. Certainly, there was already opposition to the Lord's rule over the world.
 - c. But His Son had not yet come, so this opposition had not yet happened.
 2. What happened when Christ came?
 - a. He was opposed, just as the psalmist writes.
 - b. When Peter and John were arrested, threatened and then released, they went back to the rest of the apostles.
 - (i) They saw what happened to Christ and to themselves as the fulfillment of this psalm.
 - (ii) Luke writes, "And when they had been released, they went to their own *companions*, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, 'O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Thy servant, did said, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ." For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word

with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:23-31).

- (iii) When God presented His Son as King, many opposed Him.
- (iv) Those that received Him, submitted to His authority, followed Him and proclaimed His authority were also opposed.

3. But could they stop God from setting up His King? No.

a. They disowned Him.

- (i) They put Him on trial, rejected, scourged, crucified Him.
- (ii) But the Lord raised Him up (He declared that Christ was His Son through the resurrection; v. 7; cf. Acts 13:33), brought Him up to heavenly Mount Zion, and crowned Him as King.
- (iii) He gave Him absolute authority over all the nations of the earth (v. 8), with the right to raise up and bless a nation, or to crush it with His scepter of iron (v. 9).
- (iv) Christ is now ruling over this world – a world filled with His enemies – and He will continue to reign until all of them have been subdued under His feet (Ps. 110:1-2).

b. They couldn’t stop the Lord.

- (i) The Lord laughed at them, mocked them (v. 4).
- (ii) What they were doing was vain – it had no chance of success (v. 1).
- (iii) In spite of their futile efforts, the Lord installed His Son on Mount Zion.
- (iv) All their attempts were in vain because against omnipotent power.
- (v) Christ has been exalted and given the name above every name that every knee should bow to Him (Phil. 2:9-11).

4. Now all the nations are called upon to worship Him.

- a. The psalmist writes, “Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son” (Psalm 2:10-12).
- b. They are not only called to worship the covenant God of Israel and exalt before Him with holy fear, but also to show their love and reverence for the Son by “kissing” Him – to receive Him in their affections.
- c. And remember, worship is not merely meeting to offer praise for an hour each week, it is all of life (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- d. All are called on to submit their whole lives to Him.

B. Second, let’s consider what God will do to those who won’t surrender/submit.

- 1. Quite simply, He says His Son will become angry.
- 2. He will wield His scepter of iron against them and crush them like pottery.
- 3. And they will perish.
- 4. No one can resist Him.
 - a. Why does it appear as though some nations are getting away with their sin now?
 - b. It’s because now is not the time of His judgment.
 - c. He often is very patient; but judgment comes if there is no repentance.

C. But finally, what God will do for those who worship/submit and honor His King.

1. For those who show good discernment/judgment, to those who heed the warning and love and serve this King, who trust in Him/take refuge in Him, He will bless them.
2. Again, this primarily has to do with the blessings mentioned in Psalm 1.
 - a. They apply to individuals.
 - b. They apply to nations.
 - c. There is a blessing to those who will submit to, serve and honor the King.
 - d. The blessing of His Spirit, of prosperity, of well-being.
 - e. Nothing can keep Him from fulfilling His promise.

III. Application.

- A. What is your response this morning to this King?
 - a. Are you resisting or yielding to Him?
 - b. Are you talking your stand against Him or submitting to Him?
 - c. Are you His enemy or is He your greatest love?
 - d. The answer to these questions make the difference between an eternity of hell or an eternity of heaven; between the curse of the Lord following you in this life or His blessing.
 - e. As we saw last week, if you yield to Him, you will be like a well-watered tree, blessed with the fullness of the Spirit and in all that you do for God's glory; He will bless you with peace, peace within, peace with your enemies, joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - f. But if you won't, then you will be like chaff – worthless and close to being burned.
 - g. If this latter describes you, surrender to Christ, turn from your sin, trust in Him; He will heal you, give you the strength to live a godly life, bless you.
 - h. If you do know Him, but are experiencing spiritual dryness, examine your life, repent of every sin, submit to the Lord in all things, and He will restore you.
- B. But this also reminds us how we are to pray for our nation.
 1. How is our country – leaders, people – doing with regard to its obedience?
 - a. Not very well.
 - b. Most of our leaders are opposed to Him.
 - c. Many of our laws an affront to Him.
 - d. Our injustices are an offense to Him.
 - e. Our people live ungodly and immoral lives.
 2. If our leaders don't turn and submit to Him, Christ will bring His iron scepter down on us.
 - a. We need to pray for revival, that our leaders would turn to Christ – His laws, His justice, His morality.
 - b. We need also to pray for our churches – judgment begins in the house of the Lord (1 Pet. 4:17) – that they would turn from their man-centered, self-seeking ways and serve the Lord.
 - c. If the Lord turns His church to be a prophetic voice once more, perhaps we will avoid His continuing judgment on our land.
 - d. The Lord says, “If . . . My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:13-14).
 - e. Let's pray that He would give us the grace to humble ourselves and seek Him, for ourselves, our children, our nation, the world.
 - f. Christ has all power and authority; He rules now and shall have the dominion. Let's set our hearts to pray that the Father would bring this about in its fullness.