

**(Psalm 2:1-3)** - The “*heathen*” (nations) and the “*people*” describe all people by nature, Gentile and Jew, as the apostles’ indicate in *Acts 4:23-41*. The word translated “*rage*” often describes a “*gathering together*” as in an angry mob for the purposes of hurting or killing an enemy. To “*imagine a vain thing*” describes how this angry mob futilely planned and thought that they could kill the Lord Jesus Christ and silence His message. This included people of all walks of life - kings, rulers, and others as mentioned in *Acts 4:26-27*. They took “*counsel together*” in their evil plans and schemes “*against the LORD, and against His Anointed.*” God’s “*Anointed*” speaks of Christ, the Anointed One. Since Jesus Christ is the perfect representation of the Father (*John 10:30; 14:9*), opposing God the Father is to oppose Jesus Christ. If you are against Jesus Christ, you are against God the Father. They said, “*Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us*” - This shows their natural spiritual blindness and deafness. They saw the Lord’s message of true liberty from sin, Satan, death, as bondage. They did not realize that false, works-based religion is true bondage, and God’s grace in Christ is true liberty (*John 8:31-38; Gal. 5:1*).

We need to realize that this describes all people, including ourselves, by nature - as we are all naturally born in sin, spiritual death, and depravity. By nature, whether in our natural ignorance and unbelief, or in a planned and devised opposition, we all rage against God’s way of salvation in and by the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 3:19-20*). By nature, we all imagine vain things, such as other ways of salvation conditioned on our works or wills. This shows that the spiritual death and total depravity of all people by nature do not lie in what people naturally judge to be immoral sins. It lies in ignorance, deception, and unbelief of Christ as God’s only way of salvation from sin and only way of righteousness before God. The empty and useless things that people “*imagine*” in opposition to Christ include all false religion. When the apostles quoted this verse, they were praying with the brethren to God for boldness in the Gospel in the face of such opposition because they recognized unregenerate people’s natural and universal opposition to and hatred of Christ and His truth.

**(Psalm 2:4-6)** - These verses show how the nature and mind of God is so different than what the majority of false Christianity thinks and believes. False Christianity portrays God as a defeated father who wants to save his children but either cannot or will not against their wills. False Christianity thinks of God as grieving over the opposition of unregenerate people, and it is a sad situation that people by nature are in such opposition to the Lord God and His Christ. The psalmist uses a metaphor (laughing) to show that such opposition does not disturb or change God’s sovereign will or purpose. God holds them in “*derision*” as if He mocks and scoffs at them. He will speak to “*them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.*” The wrath of God abides upon all who live and die in opposition to and unbelief in Christ. There is no hope of any of us escaping His just wrath without Christ’s blood covering our sins, His righteousness imputed to us, and His life given to us to bring us to “*kiss the Son,*” believe in and love Him. If this is so, and it is, is there any hope for sinners? YES! The LORD states emphatically, “*Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion.*” God’s “*King*” here is the Lord Jesus Christ in His mediatorial glory as the complete and successful Savior of His people (God’s elect, Christ’s church) as represented by God’s “*holy hill of Zion.*” This is the spiritual kingdom of Christ whom the Lord loves, chose, and gave to Christ before the foundation of the world. They are sinners, just like those upon whom the wrath of God abides, but they are saved by God’s grace through the blood and righteousness of Christ Who is God manifest in the flesh, as stated in the following verses.

**(Psalm 2:7)** - This is covenant language that comes from God's nature, purpose, and will as He determined to save a people whom He chose in Christ before the foundation of the world (*Eph. 1:3-14*). The whole salvation of His people was (and is) conditioned on His Son as their Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. By Himself, Christ fulfilled all conditions by satisfying God's justice for their sins imputed to Him. God has imputed Christ's righteousness to them, and they cannot be condemned (*Rom. 8:33-34*), and they cannot live and die in unbelief. They must be born again by the Holy Spirit and be brought to final glory with Christ (*John 6:37-45*). This is the decree and purpose of God revealed in the Gospel (*Rom. 1:16-17; 3:21-26*). "*Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee*" - Christ is the eternal Son of God by nature as He is the second Person of the Godhead, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit in every attribute of deity. How, then, could He have been "*begotten*"? This does not refer to His birth as if He had a beginning as we do. His sinless humanity had a beginning having been conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit. His sonship is eternal with the Father and the Spirit. The Apostle Paul quoted this when he preached in Antioch of Pisidia in reference to the resurrection of Christ (*Acts 13:33*). In His resurrection, Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power (*Rom. 1:4; Heb. 1:3-5*). Having fulfilled all righteousness for His people, Christ was begotten out of the tomb of death (*Rev. 1:5*).

**(Psalm 2:8-9)** - All the enemies of Christ and His church, along with their evil imaginations and desires, will be overthrown when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness (*Acts 17:31*). There will be no place on earth to hide. What will be glory and rejoicing for the people of God will be horror and sadness for all who are found having sin imputed to them and opposing His reign. "*Rod of iron*" denotes the severity of His judgment against them, and the destruction that God brings to them, like the broken pieces of a "*potter's vessel*," it is irreversible.

**(Psalm 2:10-12)** - Here is the command of the Gospel of God's grace in Christ. "*Be wise*" and "*be instructed*" - The wisdom of God is in Christ and the salvation He freely gives sinners based on the merits of Christ's righteousness alone (*1 Cor. 1:30*). God instructs His people by the power of the Spirit in the truth as it is in Christ (*John 6:45*). He brings His people to "*serve*" Him with respect and regard to His sovereign mercy in Christ, and they "*rejoice*" in Christ knowing that without His blood and righteousness, without His love and power, they would be lost and damned forever. So, the only hope for sinners is to "*kiss the Son, lest He be angry*." All who refuse and die in their sins shall be damned (*1 Cor. 16:22*). "*Kiss the Son*" is an expression of faith in and love for the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of His people. It is the opposite of raging against Him. It is the product of God-given faith in Christ and repentance of dead works. This statement shows that there is no love from God outside of Christ (*1 John 4:10*). The Bible states that "*God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day*" (*Psa. 7:11*). It states that "*the foolish shall not stand in [God's] sight: Thou hatest all workers of iniquity*" (*Psa. 5:5*). How, then, can any of us be saved and blessed of God? The answer is, "*Blessed are all they that put their trust IN HIM.*" This blessedness and this "*trust*" are not natural to any sinner. They are both gifts from God that come to us by virtue of the merits of Christ's obedience unto death for us (*Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:3; 2:8-10*). If any of are blessed of God and trust in Christ, it is all by God's grace, power, and goodness, and it is the sovereign work of God the Holy Spirit in giving us spiritual life in the new birth (*John 1:12-13; 3:1-7*). If any of us truly love Christ, it is because He first loved us and accomplished our complete salvation because of God's love for us (*1 John 4:10*).