

Kiss the Son

Introduction

A survey of headlines from different news outlets over the past few weeks is startling:

- “British Hotel Replaces Bedside Bibles with ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’” (7/29/2012 - Time)
- “California college professor planned shooting at high school after son's suicide” (8/1/2012 - Fox)
- “Boy Clings to Life after Father’s Murder-Suicide” (7/30/2012 – Fox News)
- “Aurora Tragedy One Of The Worst Mass Shootings In U.S. History” (7/23/2012 - KKTV)
- “Where was God in (the) Aurora Massacre?” (7/24/2012 - CNN)

These stories, which are just the tip of the iceberg, beg many questions, some of which include:

Why?

What’s the purpose?

What’s the underlying reason?

How does God view these things?

What’s God doing about these things?

How should we respond, individually, and corporately?

These are important questions, they have answers, and the plan is to address them today.

Now, these types of issues and questions aren’t new to humanity. As a wise man once said (Ecclesiastes 1:9):

“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”

As such, the wise man’s father made an observation similar to mine about the world in which he lived, roughly three thousand years ago, and asked a simple question:

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Psalm 2

“¹Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?”

This question was inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by King David of Israel (Acts 4:25). It was, and remains, a good question. Therein are two statements of fact:

1. The nations rage; and
2. The peoples of the earth plot vain things.

The Nations Rage

Who are the “nations?”

According to Acts 4:23-28, in which Psalm 2:1-3 is quoted and in part explained, the “nations” refers to the Gentiles (i.e., those who aren’t Jewish).

What are the Gentiles doing?

They rage. The root Hebrew word in the Massoretic text translated as rage in this verse is רָגַשׁ (raw-gash’) which means “to be tumultuous” or “to rage” [Strong’s # 7283, 2,3]. In Acts 4:25, in which Psalm 2:1 is quoted, the Greek root word for rage is φροῦάσσω (froo-as'-so), which means to behave arrogantly, or to vehemently neigh like an uncontrolled horse [4].

Oh how well this describes the state of this world! People, both individually and collectively, swelled with arrogance, devoid of self control, rage. Just consider the aforementioned headlines. This is not a joke. The nations rage, and the ...

People Plot Vain Things

Who are the “people?”

According to Acts 4:23-28, the “people” refers to the “people of Israel.”

What are the people of Israel doing?

They are plotting (a) vain thing(s) (Psalm 2:1; Acts 4:25). The Hebrew word for vain in Psalm 2:1 — רֵקִי (reek) — means empty, meaningless, or without purpose. And, according to Solomon, “the son of David, king in Jerusalem (Ecclesiastes 1:1b):”

“All is Vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2b) ... ”

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With one exception (Ecclesiastes 12:13b):

To “fear God and keep His commandments.”

But clearly the nations (the Gentiles) and the people (the people of Israel) weren’t and aren’t doing this. The nations rage and the people plot vain things. It was true three thousand years ago, and it’s true today. So then:

What are the Nations and People Specifically Doing?

“² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,”

The kings and rulers of the nations and the people have gathered and gather together against the LORD and His Anointed. They’ve conspired and they’re conspiring against the LORD --- YHWH --- and His Anointed --- the Messiah --- Jesus Christ! They were and are against Christ. They are anti-Christ. And do you really think that there are antichrists conspiring against the LORD today? The apostle John certainly did. He wrote the following (1 John 2:18):

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

The nations and the peoples are largely antichrist and either actively or passively engaged and engage in vain rebellion against the LORD and His Anointed. But ...

What’s the Purpose of this “Purposeless” Rebellion?

It’s declared in Psalm 2:3:

“³ ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’”

Nations and people have conspired and conspire against the LORD and His Anointed because they seek independence from the sovereign rule of the LORD and His Messiah. The nations and the peoples don’t want to be subject to God or His will. So, the nations and the people make their own laws which are anti (against and seek to supplant) God’s law. For example, in the United States:

- In 1948, the Supreme Court declared that allowing religious groups to teach religion to students in public schools during the school day violated the constitutional separation between church and state;
- In 1962, the Supreme Court declared that school-sponsored prayer is unconstitutional; and

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- In 1980, the Supreme Court declared that the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools is unconstitutional.

But vain conspiracy against God and His law isn't unique to the United States. In some other nations, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or converting from the "national" religion to Christianity, can result in imprisonment, torture, and/or death. This of course begs another question:

What are the Underlying Reasons for this Rebellion?

We know from James, the brother of Jesus, that (James 1:15):

"When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death."

Each of us, individually, is responsible for indulging those ungodly desires which bring forth sin and death, for fueling our own rebellion against the King. But, in addition to that, there's something else, **someone** else, at work, perhaps facilitating, perhaps enabling, perhaps exploiting, our sin.

The enemy, Satan, rejected the Sovereignty of God and His Messiah long ago. And since the Fall of Adam and Eve in the garden, since the permeation of creation with sin and death, Satan has known of God's prophetic declaration that the Seed of Eve, the Messiah, would one day bruise, or crush, Satan's head, and thus put an end to his rebellion (Genesis 3:15; Romans 16:20a). Consequently, prior to the birth of the Messiah, knowing that He was to emerge from the nation of Israel (Revelation 12:4b; 9):

"the dragon (that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan) stood before the woman (i.e., Israel) who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child (i.e., the Messiah) as soon as it was born."

But things didn't work out in the way that Satan had planned:

1. Some time after Jesus' birth, Jesus escaped Herod's horrific massacre of the innocents in Bethlehem when His father heeded a warning from the angel of the Lord and took Jesus and His mother to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18);
2. Through His death, Jesus atoned for sin and annulled the power which Satan had over those whom he had in bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15). Jesus began to plunder the strong man's goods (Mark 3:27); and
3. Ultimately through Jesus' resurrection, he "disarmed principalities and powers ... (and) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:15)."

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The Messiah has made a public spectacle of Satan, who is now a defeated but not yet fully crushed and vanquished enemy. And so, what has been Satan's response to this demonstration of Messiah's power and rule?

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17).”

Satan became *enraged* with Israel, and he went to make war with Christians, i.e., those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ. And just as it has been, so it is today. “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 John 5:19b),” who is the “prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)” and the “god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4).” Consequently, the majority of nations and peoples, whether they know it or not, whether they believe it or not, (1) are in spiritual bondage, (2) submit to the limited and localized sovereignty of Satan, and therefore (3) rage and plot vain things in rebellion against the Lord's rule, just like Satan. So then:

What was David's Initial Inspired Response to this Rebellion?

“⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.”

David asserted, in the midst of this rebellion, the absolute sovereignty of God. Note that while in Psalm 2:2 David referred to God as LORD — in Hebrew יהוה (YHWH) — which is the personal, covenant name of God (see Exodus 3:1-17), David now refers to God in Psalm 2:4 as Lord — in Hebrew אֲדֹנָי (ad-o-noy'), meaning Sovereign. And what is this Sovereign Lord doing in the midst of this rebellion? He is seated in the heavens on His throne, “high and lifted up, and the train of His robe (fills) the temple ... above Him stand seraphim ... who cry out to one another, saying:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD (YHWH) of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’

(Isaiah 6:1-3)”

What was David's Initial Inspired Response to this Rebellion?

David asserted the absolute sovereignty of ad-o-noy' YHWH.

What should be our initial response to this ongoing rebellion?

Declare and assert the absolute sovereignty of ad-o-noy' YHWH.

That said:

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What Does the Sovereign Lord Think about this Rebellion?

⁴“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.
⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:”

There are three ways in which God views this rebellion:

1. **He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.** This rebellion is *laughable*. It's *preposterous*. Do the limited nations and peoples of the earth truly believe that they can overcome the One who is eternal, omnipotent and omniscient?
2. **The Lord shall hold them in derision.** This rebellion is *derisive*. It's *contemptuous*. It's *despicable*. It's *unworthy of respect*. It's *worthless*.
3. **Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure.** God is not pleased. He is angry. This rebellion is *infuriating*.

God views this rebellion as laughable, contemptuous, and infuriating. So, then:

What has the Lord Done about this Rebellion? What is He Doing?

⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:”

He has done, is doing, and will do two things:

1. God has spoken, is speaking, and will speak to them, that is, the nations and the peoples, the Gentiles and the Jews; and
2. God distresses and shall distress the nations and the peoples.

God Distresses and shall Distress the Nations and the Peoples

The Hebrew word for distress in Psalm 2:5 --- בָּהֹל (baw-hal') --- can be translated as disturb, or terrify [4]. I prefer the word terrify (which is used in the ESV, NIV, NLT, and NASB), because it contrasts nicely with the vanity of the peoples in Psalm 2:1. Remember, to quote from Solomon, the son of David:

“All is Vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2b) ... ”

with one exception (Ecclesiastes 12:13b):

To “fear God and keep His commandments.”

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That is to say, those nations and peoples who refuse to fear God need to be taught to fear Him. So, God shall terrify them. A good example is found in Revelation 6:12-17, about a time which is not yet come:

“I (the apostle John) looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”

And why will these mighty men attempt to hide on that day? They will be terrified of the Lamb of God, Messiah Jesus.

“God shall ... distress (the nations and the peoples) in His deep displeasure.”

And what else has God done, is God doing, and will God do?

God Has Spoken and is Speaking

This thought is well captured by the writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 1:1-2a):

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things.”

And where do we today have a trustworthy, authoritative record of what God has spoken through the prophets and through His Son? Scripture. The Bible. The holy canon of 66 books written by men as inspired by the Holy Spirit. And God, of course, through His word, continues to speak. But what is most fascinating, to me at least, is the next few verses in Psalm 2. Looking at Psalm 2:6-9:

1. **The Holy Spirit** inspired David to write these verses (see Acts 4:25).
2. Psalm 2:6 is a decree spoken by the **Father**; and
3. Psalm 2:7-9 is a record of the **Son** stating what the Father said to Him.

This is a somewhat veiled disclosure of the **Trinity**, almost one millennium before the birth of Messiah Jesus and the explicit doctrine of the Trinity. And what has the Triune God said?

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The Father has declared:

⁶ “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”

The Father is reminding us that independent of what those rebelling against God think they will accomplish, He is Sovereign, and He has set His Messiah as His King. An amazing picture of this transaction is found in Daniel 7:13-14:

“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed.”

Messiah Jesus is the Son of Man; He is the King whose kingdom shall not pass away!

Returning to Psalm 2, verses 7-9 are a record of the Son stating what the Father has said to Him:

⁷ “I will declare the decree:

The LORD has said to Me,

‘You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You

The nations for Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron;

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Messiah Jesus, the King who shall rule the nations with a rod of iron, is the begotten Son of God! Almost one millennium before the birth of Christ, God revealed through Psalm 2 to the Jewish people that His Messiah is the only begotten Son of God, and He shall rule the nations! However, the Jewish people didn’t know His identity. Hence, the proverb of Agur (Proverbs 30:4):

“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

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Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is His name, and what is His Son's name,
If you know?"

The identity of the begotten Son of God was a concealed mystery to the Jews for centuries. But now in the present dispensation we know His name: Jesus Christ! As it is written (John 1:1-4, 14-18):

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The **only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

Messiah Jesus is the only begotten Son of God! This is of course a statement of His divine nature and role within the Godhead. But, according to the apostle Paul, it is also an allusion. Acts 13 contains a record of the apostle Paul's message to a synagogue in Antioch after he was invited to share an exhortation for the congregation. Therein, Paul preached the Gospel, in which he said the following (Acts 13:32-33):

"And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.'"

The allusion, according to Paul, who spoke as moved by the Holy Spirit, is that Psalm 2:7 refers to the future resurrection of the Messiah, which as we know, is now historical fact. Paul thus went on to say (Acts 13:38-39):

"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses."

This is the same message penned by David in the remaining verses of Psalm 2.

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In View of Messiah's Sovereignty and Divinity, what is God's Final Exhortation?

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
^{12a} Kiss the Son.

God exhorts all in five ways, to:

1) Be Wise

That is, be prudent, be discerning, exercise good judgment.

2) Be Instructed

That is, be admonished, or be warned.

3) Serve the LORD with fear

That is, end all opposition to the LORD and His Anointed, and serve Him, for “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7).”

4) Rejoice

“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; break forth in song, **rejoice**, and sing praises (Psalm 98:4).”

5) Kiss the Son.

Kiss the Son. Pay homage to the LORD's Anointed. Submit to the Kingship of the only begotten Son of God. Worship, Messiah Jesus. This of course begs a question:

Why? Why Should we Kiss the Son?

^{12a} Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.

Why should we kiss the Son? Because if you don't kiss the Son, then one day you will perish, subject to His just, sovereign, eternal wrath. As it is written:

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“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).”

“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him (John 3:35-36).”

Kiss the Son, or be subject to His eternal, abiding wrath.

How? How can we Kiss the Son and Escape His Wrath?

Do we simply work hard at serving the LORD and obeying His commands? “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God (John 6:36)?”

^{12b} [Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.](#)

Kissing the Son requires that you trust in Him. It all comes down to trust, or shall I say, faith. And faith in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, involves three key aspects:

1. Knowledge – of who He was, is, and will always be. And this knowledge is in God’s word. As Jesus once said, speaking of what we call the Old Testament (John 5:39):

“These are they which testify of Me!”

2. Belief – that said knowledge is absolutely, not relatively, true. But (James 2:19):

“even the demons believe – and tremble!”

3. Trust – the willingness to love and submit to Jesus, as your Savior and Lord.

^{12b} [Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.](#)

Now, there’s something else here that we shouldn’t miss.

What’s a key promise of this verse?

^{12b} [Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.](#)

Blessed. Blessed! Do you want to be blessed by God? Then place your faith in His Son Jesus.

So then ...

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What's the Obvious Primary Application of this Psalm?

Kiss the Son in faith: end your rebellion, no matter how great, or how small, and worship the King, Messiah Jesus. Trust in Him, and Him alone, for salvation from God's just wrath, which we deserve and is to come.

What's the Secondary Application of this Psalm?

Pray, and boldly share this exhortation with others. This application comes to us directly from the apostles Peter and John, who, speaking together with the other disciples once said (Acts 4:24-31):

"Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?
The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the LORD and against His Christ.'

'For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and ***grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word***, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.'

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."

What's the Conclusion of the Matter?

Kiss the Son, pray, boldly exhort all others to do likewise, and be blessed. Kiss the Son!

Amen.

References

- [1] "The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible," Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1990.
- [2] <http://qbible.com/hebrew-old-testament/psalms/2.html>

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- [3] <http://concordances.org/hebrew/>
- [4] <http://interlinearbible.org/>