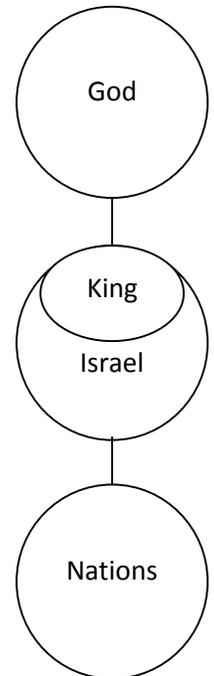


## Day 1

- † Read Psalm 2.1-3. Whenever you see LORD in all capitals in the Old Testament of your Bible, it is referring to the name God gave himself. The Hebrew Old Testament originally had no vowels, only consonants. At some point, the Jews stopped saying God's name aloud, out of fear they might somehow misuse his name [because of Exodus 20.7]. Over time, people forgot how to say God's name correctly. Today, scholars think it mostly likely should be pronounced "YAH-way." What the Jews used to do was mark the vowels for another word, Adonai, next to the consonants for Yahway. Then when they came to the word, they would say "Adonai," which means "lord" or "master," instead of "Yahway."<sup>1</sup> Later translators misunderstood what the Jews did and sounded out the word with Yahway's consonants and Adonai's vowels, to come up with "Jehovah." So, ironically, many Christians in the US and Europe who wanted to call God by name used the one form we know is incorrect.
- † In Psalm 2.1-3, the narrator sets the scene and then quotes the Gentile rulers. Recall that God's purpose for mankind is to reflect his character [image] and represent him on Earth [Genesis 1.26-28]. With the Abrahamic Covenant, God modified his original model, such that God righteously ruled over the king of Israel; the king was to reflect God's character and represent God by righteously ruling in God's name over Israel; and Israel, with the king, was to reflect God's character and represent God by righteously ruling in God's name over the rest of the nations.
- † In this psalm, the governments of the world are in rebellion against God and his "anointed." When David wrote this psalm, he was God's anointed king. Thus, David was the most important man in the world, the top representative of God, who represented God and ruled in God's name over Israel, and – in God's plan – would represent God and rule in God's name with Israel over the rest of the nations. So this psalm could be about God using David to crush the opposition in his day. On the other hand, the Hebrew word that means "Messiah" [or "Christ"] is this same word, and the apostles used this psalm to understand who Jesus is. So we believe this psalm is more about Jesus than about David, we believe David was being prophetic.
- † Do you think these verses are consistent with the situation today? No doubt, the nations were in rebellion in David's day, but it is interesting that the psalm speaks to our generation too. Be encouraged that God is not surprised by the rebellion in the world today. Pray that God will help you to understand this psalm and how it can inform you about what is going on in the world today; pray that you can take comfort in knowing that God has a plan to bring judgment and righteousness back to the Earth.



## Day 2

- † Read Psalm 2.1-6. In v.4, does God sound concerned about this rebellion getting out of hand? How does God react inside to their efforts? But what does v.5 say about God's attitude toward this rebellion and his reaction toward those who are rebelling? God's anger in the Bible always implies judgment against someone. In his anger, what was God's action in v.6? How is this action an answer to the rebellion of the nations?
- † Zion is the mountain where Jerusalem was founded, where the "city of David" was located and where David's son, Solomon, would construct the temple for God. Ironically, today the Jews of Israel call the next hill over "Zion," instead of the hill where the temple mount is located. But in David's day they had it right, so God says he has installed his king in Jerusalem, upon Zion. This is God's way of judging the rebellious leaders. They want to break away from his chain of command – from both God and God's anointed representative – but God is insisting on his anointed king's right to rule over the nations in God's name.
- † Jesus is the anointed descendent of David whom God the Father has chosen to be the eternal king of Israel. He is not yet on David's throne here on earth, but he is God's anointed king. God the Father also placed Jesus as head of the church. So pray that you would act righteously, as though Jesus were king right now and you were his servant, because Jesus is our leader in the church and will be our king when he returns.

<sup>1</sup> Literature usually spells this "Yahweh," but I will use "Yahway" here so you remember how to pronounce it.

### Day 3

- † Read Psalm 2.7-9. This can be hard to understand, unless you realize who is talking. In v.7, it is God's anointed king talking. We know it cannot still be God talking, because the speaker in v.7 refers to God, "LORD" in all capitals. So it is God's anointed king talking, and he quotes what God the Father said to him.
  - † A son is the ideal representative of his father, truly made in his image, able to reflect his father's character and represent his father well. Remember, the king of Israel was to be God's ultimate representative on Earth, reflecting God's character and representing God while ruling in God's name. This language about God having a son in this sense refers back to the covenant God made with King David [2 Samuel 7.12-16]. God said David's son, Solomon, would be king after him, and build a temple for God, and that Solomon would be God's son, his representative who would reflect God's character. This proved to be true for a while, and so Israel grew in power, wealth, and influence.
  - † God also promised David that the throne of David and Solomon would last forever, that there would always be a descendent of David and Solomon who would be the rightful heir of the throne of Israel and thus the righteous top representative on Earth of God himself. Even today, this person exists who is the rightful King of Israel and thus the rightful top representative of God the Father to the rest of the world. In Psalm 2, God calls this person his "son." Since this anointed king and son is already interacting with God when God "begets" him, we know this does not refer to conception or birth, but rather to the anointing: this is when God the Father anoints this person to be his son and representative as king. Read Hebrews 5.5 and Acts 13.33: this person is Jesus! That's why Matthew and Luke took such care to establish that Jesus descended from Abraham and David: Jesus was born as the rightful heir to the throne of David, and as he is the divine Son of God come to Earth as a man, he is the true image of God the Father who can reflect God's character and represent God righteously. Read Romans 1.1-4 and see how Paul describes Jesus.
  - † David and Solomon were anointed kings, representing God, but they were tainted with sin and could not be a perfect image or representative of God. These verses are prophetic about Christ's return to fulfill the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. Jesus will reign forever and over the whole earth, and when he returns to do so he will shatter those who oppose him as God's representative, those who are rebelling against God's rule. Pray that you will come to appreciate fully who Jesus is and to give him the reverence he deserves every day of your life.
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### Day 4

- † Read Psalm 2.10-12. The narrator's voice comes back to give a warning. What are the three commands of this passage, which all peoples of the Earth should obey? Can you see a fourth command implicit in the last sentence?
  - † Read Acts 4.24-27. The apostles referred to this psalm and then pointed out that not only had the Gentile rulers of the Roman Empire [the nations] conspired against God's anointed king, but so had Israel's religious leaders! In conspiring with the Romans to kill Jesus, they had allowed the nations to rule over them instead of submitting to their rightful king and allowing him to rule in God's name over them and through them over the Romans. This was the same problem of not submitting to God's creative order that had been occurring throughout history and the Old Testament.
  - † The narrator says we worship and serve God through his anointed son. Because the son is the anointed king whom God has chosen to represent him on Earth, if we do not honor the son, then we do not please God. In other words, if we do not honor Jesus, then we are not truly worshipping God the Father! What does this imply for those who say they are spiritual or believe in God, but who do not believe in the biblical Jesus? What happens to those who do not honor God's anointed? Pray for your friends, relatives, coworkers, neighbors who do not know Christ as Savior.
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### Day 5

- † Read Psalm 2. The last sentence shows the way to avoid God's wrath. What does it say we should do? How do we take refuge in Jesus? Throughout the Bible, salvation comes by accepting God's promise of deliverance. Today, we know that salvation comes through the anointed son, or Christ. Accept who Jesus is: part of the Godhead who came to earth to be born as a man, the anointed king, the son of God, the Messiah or Christ promised as a Deliverer throughout the OT and described in the NT. Accept the deliverance Jesus offers: he died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins so you could be accounted as righteous before God, and thus reconciled to have peace with God and be spared God's wrath. Pray that your faith would grow stronger each day, that you would grow in understanding of God and his revelation, that you would be able to teach and minister to others in Christ's name, that you would truly take refuge in Christ...