

Ps 2.1-6—The Futility of Rebellion Against God

Man's Rebellion, vv.1-3

- I. The object of this rebellion: the Lord and His Anointed.
 - A. David is speaking of Jesus Christ in His role and capacity as the incarnate Mediator and Redeemer anointed by the Father as King. The world inherently opposes God and His Christ (Mt 21.37; Lk 19.14).
 - B. Jesus Christ is therefore the great touchstone of human character and of where a man stands before God, Lk 2.34-35. Christ's Kingship is the great dividing line between men.
- II. The cause of this rebellion: the wicked rebel against the laws and authority of God.
 - A. They hate the restraint which God's authority puts on their lusts and want to cast it off, Jn 3.18; 15.22, 24
- III. The extent of this rebellion: nations and peoples, kings and rulers. It's the picture of global and universal rebellion.
 - A. This is because rebellion against God isn't a product of one nation or generation but of fallen human nature, Rom 3.10-18
- IV. The nature of this rebellion: the wicked rage, plot, set themselves, and take counsel together, Mic 2.1; cf. Jn 11.53; Mk 3.6
 - A. This is where all hate-filled sinners meet: in opposition against the reign of God in Christ, Lk 23.12
 - B. This has been the story of Christianity since the beginning. Men don't care what religion occupies the top of the mountain so long as it's not the religion of Jesus Christ, Jn 18.40
- V. The utter futility of it: it's unreasonable, foolish, useless, and vain because it's against the Almighty God and His reigning Christ.

God's Derision, vv.4-5

- I. The scene shifts from a raging earth to a quiet and peaceful heaven, from the panicking wicked to the calm God.
- II. He whom the earth opposes and against whom the wicked rage, is the One who sits in the heavens.
 - A. It's the posture and place of sovereign authority over earth.
- III. Though He sits in heaven, God is fully aware of all man's schemes against Him, Heb 4.13; cf. Jn 2.25
 - A. Yet, He sits undisturbed and unshaken, Jn 18.4-5
- IV. God laughs at the wicked. It's the laugh of divine derision, mockery, and contempt. Man's efforts are despicable in His eyes.
- V. His laughter will give way to judgment when He turns all their plans upside down and destroys all who oppose Him.
 - A. In the end, Christianity will triumph, the wicked will bow before Christ, and God will have His vengeance against them.

Christ's Ordination, v.6

- I. While men pursue their course, God pursues His.
 - A. He *will* appoint and ordain His Son as the incarnate Mediator and King of heaven and earth, Acts 13.29-33
 - B. No amount of effort by the wicked can stand in the way of God's purpose for His Son, His earth, and His Church.
 - C. Thus the invisible, Triune God will ever rule over heaven and earth by the Second Person, Jesus Christ, who alone made Himself visible by taking on our flesh as His own, Mt 11.27; 28.19; Jn 5.22-23, 27, because this is the Father's good pleasure and will, Eph 1.9-10; Mt 11.25-28

Our Response

- I. Don't be surprised at any development of wickedness against God, Christ, and the Christian Church. Only remember Acts 14.22; 2Tim 3.12-13; Jn 15.19-20; and 1Pet 4.12
 - A. It's hard to believe how opposed the world is to Christianity, but it can't be otherwise as long as the world remains dead in its sin.
 - B. This fallen world is not the Church's home; so let's not look here for smiles, rest, and acceptance; but let's set our affections above where our home is and from whence our Saviour will soon come in victory!
- II. Don't fear the persecution and reproach of the ungodly
 - A. These verses tell us that the Lord owns the battle we face.
 - B. The world opposes the Church, but only because of its hatred of Christ.
 - C. So let's not fear their persecution; for whatever their attempts, they will fail and Christ will rule over them, making them His unwilling servants to bring about His will after all.
 - D. He has set bounds for them beyond which they cannot pass and therefore no matter how things may appear, let us trust and wait with patience on the full reign of Jesus Christ, Rev 22.13
 - E. And remember: it's by persecution and opposition that the church grows and thrives.