

GOD IS WORKING HIS PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
 - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered*; *Word Focused*; & *Ministry Minded*
 - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
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Psalm 2

INTRODUCTION:

Life is growing increasingly complex. Our minds are overloaded with information. Our minds are having difficulty keeping pace with the scientific, technological, cultural and social innovation of our times. Values are eroding. The wisdom of the past seems to have lost its validity and it seems we don't have a clear vision of the future. Our view of the world is narrowed by what is going on at the moment. The negative developments are overemphasized while the positive ones elude us. We focus on the small negative things around us and fail to view the whole picture.

BACKGROUND:

The psalmist lived in a time when the negative developments around him outweighed the positive, but he refused to live a nightmarish existence. He doesn't see himself as hopeless. Though the nations around him desired his destruction, and the people in his own nation conspired against him. The rulers of the earth were crying for rebellion against him. He simply reminds himself that God will rebuke them with an iron scepter. He simply determines that he will serve the sovereign Lord who will work things out in his own time.

He sought to see it all from the eternal perspective of the kingdom of God. The world was against him, but he understood God ruled. His belief in God helped him develop a philosophy of life that allowed him to see the bigger picture. He understood the world order of things and his place in it.

It has been said the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Christ's message and mission give Christians 20/20 hindsight into the mysteries of the messianic promises of the Old Testament. More importantly is that now we see how we were included in God's plan. Our prayers should reveal our belief that now God is moving on our behalf to fulfill the promises in Psalm 2. We must see God's continuance to work deliverance as he salvages our lives. We understand it all as part of the promise made in Psalms 2.

God's plan seems mysterious, but he rules, he is working things out according to his plan, and each of us is included in it. God's plan was mysterious to the prophets and to even the angels. They were secrets hidden in the very heart of God. The angels often scratched their heads at what God was doing. They had no clue. They couldn't make sense of it. However, Christians see the revelation of the message clearly. Christ is the mystery revealed. (1 Pet 1:10-12; Colossians 2:2-3)

DISCUSSION:

Have you ever wondered why it seems like God lets evil go unpunished? Evil seems to be winning the world over. In this psalm we are reminded that God is still in control.

The Response of Man (Vv. 1-3)

These verses ask questions that many have asked.

1. Why does God allow man to rebel against Him?
2. Why does God allow evil nations and rulers to grow more and more powerful?
3. Does God care?

God's plan for our personal lives often seems mysterious. We don't know what tomorrow will bring. If God openly revealed His plan to us it would cause even more anxiety. Imagine a finite mind wrestling with plans of an infinite intelligence. If Satan knew God's specific plan for each of us, he would use this knowledge to make our lives more difficult. What general wouldn't use his knowledge of his opponents plans to defeat his opponent. God's plans for each of us are mysterious for good reason.

We can rest assured God is in control. He has a plan. We must follow one step at a time as it is revealed. (Read Acts 18:5-17)

The Response of God (Vv. 4-9)

How does God respond to the evilness of man?

1. He laughs. When you think about it, man thinking he is as powerful as Almighty God is hilarious.
2. He pours out His wrath. God can destroy or remove anyone who opposes Him.
3. He calls the shots. Zion is another name for Jerusalem. Although Jerusalem has experienced many problems and will continue to until the end; Jesus will sit as King in the New Jerusalem, which is Heaven. (Revelation 21:1-5)

God rules—but it is amazing how God's promises do not always remove fear and doubt.
(Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 4:16-18; Romans 8:18-19)

The Recommendation of God (Vv. 10-12)

God makes several recommendations to mankind:

1. Be wise. God is the only way to salvation.
2. Be warned. Don't continue to rebel against God.
3. Be God's. Take refuge in God.

Those who trust in God will find true happiness. Don't worry about what God is doing. God is still on the throne.

God's rule gives all hope. We may think the hope God offers is reserved only for the heroes of the Bible. However, they were called long before they became heroes—we forget hope was extended to them while they were sinners. And they didn't live perfect lives after they were called by God.

God's plan includes every person who has ever sinned or will ever sin. It is offered to scoffers and the ungodly as well as it is to those who are sincerely seeking him. (Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Paul mentions all those who will be lost, and then unashamedly reminds the Corinthians that is what they were before they were sanctified in Christ. Imagine, Paul addressing these sinners as saints. I am amazed at what many believe one must do to become a saint. The Corinthians became sanctified the moment they believed in Christ. Luke writes, “. . . many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized” (Acts 18:8 NIV). Paul says, they were washed, they were sanctified, and they were justified.”

You might think God had many righteous people in the city he wanted to save. We may think those God wanted to save were attending a Jewish synagogue as they eagerly awaited the message of the Messiah. God didn't send Paul to save the righteous. Paul was sent to save sinners—the ungodly—the unrighteous. They had no clue to what God was doing on their behalf as he ruled in the heavens above. But he was there in a powerful way. He was working out his plans and the rulers of the world were no match for God.

It may be hard to imagine that God sent Paul to save these sinners. It is even harder to believe they became saints the moment they received Christ in baptism. God told Paul he had many people in the city. These were the people he was speaking of. They were his sons and daughters by natural birth.

The psalmist proclaims in V.7 “He [God] said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” No doubt this is a messianic prophecy. Yet, David realizes he is God's Son in a very real sense. He is not divine, but he is no less God's Son. It is a personal promise to David as well as a prophetic statement about Christ.

CONCLUSION:

We are children of God by natural birth. We can stake a claim on our relationship with God anew through Christ. Luke traces Jesus' genealogy through Adam. He wrote Jesus was the son of Adam, who was the son of God (Luke 3:23-38). It reminds us of our original relationship with God in Eden. He came to reclaim God's original relationship with each of us.

The most common name Jesus referred to himself as was the "son of man." He is not ashamed to identify with us. He wanted us to know that he was one of us, because we are all sons and daughters of God. We were born into this world as sons and daughters of God. We are made in his image. Jesus Christ simply came to reconcile our relationship with God. (Read Philippians 2:5-13)

Jesus came proclaiming himself simply as the "son of man" to remind us that we are sons and daughters of God. He came to remind us that God is not so far removed from sinners. He came to remind us that he rules in heaven on our behalf. He rules to bring us personal deliverance—personal salvation. No matter how sinful we are or have been. (Read Romans 5:6-11)

We fail to see what God is doing beyond us—and our circumstances—our world. Until we do, we will never understand the frame work our lives fit into. We can't imagine how far reaching God's plan is, but we can rest assured each of us is included.

It is certainly encouraging to understand that every move God has ever made or will ever make is designed to salvage his relationship with each of us through Christ. Each decision God makes today is designed to give us a future bigger than anything we are capable of imagining.

God is working his plan in your life. Are you willing to accept his plan?

Fitting our lives into the framework of God's plan is far more hopeful than trying to fit our lives into the narrow view of a seemingly hopeless world that is overemphasizing the negative. It allows us to see our unbelievable place in the bigger picture of God's handiwork.

Read the psalm again, but read it as though God is telling you "You are my Son/Daughter; today I have become your Father." Live life accordingly. Remember God's plan revealed in this psalm will not be completed until Christ returns. It is a thumbnail sketch of his ongoing eternal plan for each of us.