



## PURSUING GOD

In Step with the Psalms

### Psalm 2

Inductive Discovery Lesson 14

The commanding officer of an elite naval flagship ordered his radioman to send out a message to an obstacle that had appeared on the radar screen directly in the ship's oncoming path: "Move your vessel twenty degrees starboard." There was an immediate reply: "You move twenty degrees to your starboard." The angry officer shot back: "Tell him I am the admiral of this vessel, which is the flagship of the fleet!" Another reply was received: "I am Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class James. You must change your course twenty degrees starboard immediately." The enraged officer ordered: "This is a battleship—we can and will blow you out of the water; change your course or else!" Seaman James radioed back: "This, sir, is a lighthouse!" And that ended the standoff, since there is no way a battleship can move a lighthouse! Such is the message of Psalm 2: rebellious mankind telling God to move out of the way, and God sending back the message to "change course or else."

The ongoing war of a lost world against God is epic. It is as old as time, extending all the way back to the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve first took matters into their own hands, exercising their free will to defy God's authority over their lives. The cosmic battle between good and evil has rendered countless novels, movies, and even today's version of video games; most of it for entertainment purposes but, the basic story line is not fiction or fantasy, it is actually quite real. No matter how depraved or determined man's attempts to overthrow God's rule may be, all such efforts will fail; for in the end every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### *Did you know ~*

The book of Psalms contains more Messianic prophecies than any other Old Testament book, with the exception of Isaiah. Psalm 2 is a *royal psalm*, revealing the Messiah as the Son of God, the undisputed sovereign ruler over heaven and earth. The exact origin of this psalm is unknown, but the Apostles Peter and John ascribe its authorship to David (Acts 4:25). It looks prophetically ahead to the time when the Lord Jesus Christ—God's anointed, promised Messiah—takes center stage upon the earth. It depicts the ongoing rebellion of the world against God and His Son.



## Psalm 2

### *The Return of the King*

A Messianic Psalm of David

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

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces

And cast away Their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;

The Lord shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,

And distress them in His deep displeasure:

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

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.’ ”

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;

Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,

And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,

When His wrath is kindled but a little.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.



**Psalm 2:7-12**

What the psalmist says:

My notes and personal observations:

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be wise (v.10) \_\_\_\_\_

be instructed (v.10) \_\_\_\_\_

 **Did you know . . .**

In ancient times, Egyptian and Assyrian rulers ceremoniously exhibited their power by writing the names of their enemies on pottery and smashing them with an iron scepter.

“Kiss the Son” – Since ancient times and in many cultures, the kiss is a symbolic gesture of loyalty and submission from a humble subject toward his king.

 **CONSIDER**

According to Psalm 2 . . .

What will be the outcome for universal rebellion against the Lord and His Anointed? \_\_\_\_\_

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What terms of peace does God offer in advance of the King’s return? \_\_\_\_\_

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## INTERPRET and APPLY

***“The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”***

*– Psalm 119:130*

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** The imaginative language of the Psalms helps us to understand that God’s Word provides guidance for our feelings as well as our faith. As you look for spiritual lessons, keep in mind that this collection of prayers and songs teaches us how to worship God—not just with our lips but with our lives. While the Psalms address all aspects of life and human experience, ultimately they point us back to our Creator.

Ask: What is the theme of this psalm? How does the psalmist express himself to God? What does this psalm reveal about God’s character or His relationship with His people? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

***“I pondered the direction of my life and I turned to follow Your statutes.  
I will hurry, without lingering, to obey Your commands.”***

*– Psalm 119:59-60 NLT*

We don’t read the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to obey what we have learned. Ask yourself: What can I learn from the psalmist’s experience? How does this help to line up my feelings with my faith? Does it provide comfort? Does it provide correction? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

### Psalm 2:1-6

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

### Psalm 2:7-12

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

### Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the psalm is about. \_\_\_\_\_

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Give your own title to the psalm to help you remember what it says.

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## Up close and personal

**Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.  
Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**

Psalm 2:10-11

### Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

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### Meditate on God's Word

As you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea: the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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## Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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## A Lamp to my Feet and a Light to my Path

What has been the most important lesson, for you personally, as you studied this psalm? How will you begin today to put what you are learning into practice?

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