

Psalm 2ⁱⁱⁱ Struggle on the World's Stage

¹Why are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
²Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
³"Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
⁴He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the LORD has them in derision.
⁵Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
⁶"I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
⁶Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
⁷Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
⁸You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
⁹And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
¹⁰Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
¹¹Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
¹²Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

ⁱⁱⁱ About the Psalm: Psalm 2

This psalm is a divine affirmation of the Jewish king. Amidst the rebellion of other kings (vv. 1-3), God reaffirms the choice (vv. 4-6) and adoption of the king as God's son (v. 7) in order to establish God's rule over the nations (vv. 8-9). The psalm ends with a warning to the kings of the nations to submit to God and "serve the LORD" or expect God's wrath (vv. 10-11). Christians have applied this psalm to Christ, the "anointed" one of God (v. 2).
