

## Psalm 2 “Wise up” Sermon CCH (Recorded) Livestream 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

- V12
- ▲ Last Sunday. A rock Concert with a difference.
  - For a start it was 8 hours long.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> All performed online.
    - pop stars coming together virtually from their own homes
    - recording songs to raise over £100m fight against coronavirus.
  - Now.. Final Song “The Prayer” by Lady Gaga, Andrea Bocelli, Celine Deon and others.

- *“When we lose our way / Lead us to the place*
    - *Guide us with your grace / To a place where we'll be safe”*

    - World is of course looking for a place of safety. Could call it refuge.
    - Here in lyrics of this song even turning in prayer to God!
    - Perhaps despite the valiant efforts of our NHS, government, bank managers, we know safety is not ultimately found in healthcare, politics or money.
- Well it just happens that for these 4 weeks (starting last week David- Ps 46)
  - we are looking at 4 songs of our own, not sung by Lady Gaga, but mainly by King David written 3000 years ago. All songs of refuge. Which have something to say.
- Looked at Ps1 last summer
  - With Johnny (Podcast on our website)
- Along with Ps 1, Ps1&2
  - Are not only the first of the 150. But way into the 150.
  - They bring us to the theme of blessing (1:1, 2:12)
  - and (Christopher Ash) introduce us to the *Psalm 1 man* who is the *Psalm 2 King*.
- So this 3000 yr old song answers Q where this blessing of refuge/safety is to be found. V12.
- **Let's pray**

- The Ps is formed of 4 paras of 3 verses each. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> go together. A heading & Q for each.
- **1) REBELLION v1-3**
  - Verbs: conspire (or RAGE) plot, rise up, band together).
    - Never understand good news of Jesus unless und bad news of our rebellion.
  - Fight against God, REJECTION of his rule
  - But the particular thing here is people doing sin together. Corporate.
    - Conspire. Band together. A form of peer pressure!
    - We all love to think we know best and go our own way, but even better if you can find someone else who agrees with your selfishness and waywardness.
    - And if you can climb the ladder a little in leadership so that you are
      - An influencer / voice/
      - Someone who people follow (even if just on social media)
    - Then your rebellion will get that bit further.
  - But it's in v3 we see what's behind this rebellion.
    - It's just that God's ways are too RESTRICTIVE
    - Break bonds
    - Those delicious words of the serpent in the garden. “You won't die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you'll be like God”.
    - In other words, God's restricting you, he's spoiling your fun. It will be better to break free from his oppressive chains (when actually the only bonds God leads with in the bible are “cords of human kindness, ties of love” (Hosea 11) )
    - It's **madness**. ▲ It's like a goldfish singing the Queen hit “I want to break free” as he makes a valiant effort to free himself from the shackles of water but ends up flapping for breath on the kitchen floor.
    - Perfect freedom isn't found away from God and his Messiah. It's found in **Him**.

- And it gets to fever pitch in the NT in the life and death of Jesus Christ.
- Acts 4 the early church gathers for a prayer meeting and quotes this Psalm and see its fulfilment in Herod and Pontius Pilate conspiring together with the Romans against Jesus to crucify him.
  - (perhaps the most quoted Psalm in the NT- look at our dig deeper).
    - Now we see this rebellion **blatantly** in atheism and in the more extreme forms of permissiveness in our society.
    - I guess we see it more **subtly** in the polite but firm apathy of our society. “It’s great that you believe that”, but
- But don’t think that we are immune from it.
  - Every day making 1000s of ethical decisions on what to do, what to say, how to act.
  - Tragically, more often than not, we choose our way over God’s as revealed in the good ways of the Bible which Ps 1 spaks of.
- Just let’s think of one example.
  - You’ve been out of the house once for shopping or exercise.
  - The government has clearly told you to “stay at home”.
  - But you figure that it won’t harm anyone just to nip out to do this or that task.
  - Even it it doesn’t harm (though it could cost lives). What are you doing there?
  - You are seeing the governments ways (put there as God’s ways, Ro 13) as restrictive
    - And deciding that you know better.
  - It’s arrogance. No wonder health bosses have had to resign when they’ve been caught for privately disregarding the principles that publicly they have been promoting.
- And every lustful thought, unkind word, selfish action contains arrogant rebellion within it.
- So **Question: Do you recognise this rebellion in yourself?**
- Let’s see what God thinks of it... v4. Quite **shocking**...

## • **2) RULER v4-9**

- (we cover two paragraphs here
  - With God the Father in view in the first
  - And God the Son, his anointed King or Messiah spaking in the second.
- We see God’s Reaction.
- What is it?
- He finds this ridiculous.
- In one sense this rebellion is a serious matter,
- But to God it’s as laughable as an snail shaking its fist (if it has one) up at an elephant.
- ▲ Stalked by an atheist. Found email, never met chap for some years got some taunts. One time a pirated DVD of a film called “religulous” (religious are ridiculous) showing how
  - It was quite offensive, I couldn’t watch it all.
  - But what will be seen to be ridiculous will not be those who believe in the God of Bible. But those who shake their fist at this God on the day of God’s reckoning.
- V5.
  - You see he’s made an appointment.
    - He’s put his King in Zion. That’s OT speak for Jerusalem.
    - Where a small city occupied a low lying mountaintop.
  - God has put his true ruler on the throne and it’s not the world leaders of v1-3.
- **We meet this king in verse 7-9.**
- The king himself takes the microphone and sings the next bit.
- It starts with the Lord’s decree: that word has a permanence like etching on **stone**
- God the Father has appointed a King to be in a Father- Son like relationship.
- You get that language in God’s covenant with David in **2 Sam 7**
- But actually the language repeats at Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration.
  - “This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased, Listen to Him”.
- And this King is not just going to rule a small part of the middle East.

- This is God's ruler for the whole world v8.
- And v9 tells us that those who resist his rule will be treated like crockery at a Greek wedding.
- Wow, we don't often think of J like this
- Gentle Jesus, meek & mild. Baby in a manger. A gentle preacher who welcomed the children
- Yes, but remember his righteous anger in the temple.
- His woes to the pharisees.
- The picture of him in John's vision in Revelation with
  - eyes like blazing fire
  - a sword coming out of his mouth
  - And John fell as though dead before him.

So the question. **Do you recognise Jesus as God's true King?**

Rico Tice tells the story of a radio transcript that appeared on the internet, though denied by US authorities as an urban myth. It has a point though...

US Ship: *Please divert your course 0.5 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.*  
 reply: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.  
 US Ship: *This is the Captain of a US Navy Ship. I say again, divert your course.*  
 reply: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course!  
 US Ship: *THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS CORAL SEA, WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW!!*  
 reply: This is a lighthouse. Your **call**.

**When we put point 1 our rebellion against the truth of the universe point 2 ruler, We are on a collision course.**

And so final paragraph is absolutely crucial. **Point 3. RESPONSE.**

- The Psalm tells us plainly what is the wise response.
  - Called this "Wise up"
- It's a mixture of repentance (that is to say changing our ways) and taking refuge.
  - V10-11.
  - It's very logical.
  - In this era of "social distancing", we need to distance ourselves from the attitude that lives as if we are an indestructible US WARSHIP that rules the waves.
  - Serve God v11- lovely mix of joy and fear. "celebrate with trembling"
  - Appropriate to this all powerful yet all wonderful King.
  - V12.
    - One preacher I heard of "Who are you kissing this Christmas?!" provocative.
    - (images of medieval knights bowing down before the king and kissing his hand)
    - Not that his anger is capricious like ours, flare up.
    - Rather that one day, when we meet him at death or when he returns it will be too late.
  - V12b But there is a refuge from his wrath.
  - This is the fascinating thing. Read final sentence carefully.
    - We shelter from the Son in the Son.
    - You actually find safety not by running from him, but running to him.

As we wrap up can I speak plainly to you (as this Ps does) with this final question.

**Have you taken refuge in the Son of God.**

- Xty not so much about being good, as being rescued.
- Not about religion or ritual but refuge.
- Can I tell you with the authority of God's word that if you continue in a state of rebellion against God and his son Jesus Christ, you are on a collision course for his rod of iron v9.
- How can a good and perfect King do anything else than crush the rebellion of those who rise up against his ways?
  - Kiss the Son. Change your course.
  - Take refuge in him.

- *"When we lose our way / Lead us to the place*
    - *Guide us with your grace / To a place where we'll be safe"*
  - 
  - God has answered our prayer.
  - We do need refuge, not just from coronavirus but from what lies behind coronavirus and all the brokenness of our world. The anger of God against our rebellion.
  - The refuge is the ruler, Jesus Christ.
  - We have lost our way.
  - God has guided us to his grace, to a place or rather a person who is his Son. The King.
    - Only he can shelter us from sin, for he defeated it on the cross.
    - Only he can shelter us from death, for he defeated it by his resurrection
    - Take refuge in him and you will find life. Blessing.

Let's have a moment of silence to bring our own prayers to God, and then a song based on these words.