



PSALM 2



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM



Bill Maher, TV/Movie host quotes

- God is a “psychotic mass murderer”
- “religion is a neurological disorder”
- “The Bible looks like it started out as a game of *Mad Libs*”
- “God has a big ego problem. Why do we always have to worship him?”
- “The plain fact is, religion must die for mankind to live.”



Cited by Jim Watkins, “Jesting With The Lord’s Name”
Photo from the movie *Religulous*

Matthew Henry Intro to Psalm 2

“Satan... knows very well that, as the Messiah’s kingdom rises and gets ground, his falls and loses ground; and therefore, though it will be set up certainly, it shall not be set up tamely.”

“The moon walks in brightness, though the dogs bark at it.”



Matthew Henry (1662 - 1714)

4 Sections – 4 (?) Speakers

- a)**
Psalmist
1. What have the nations clamored for and peoples meditated on vanity for?
 2. Kings of the earth set themselves up, and distinguished men establish unity against Jehovah and against His Anointed One.
- Unbelievers.** “**Let us burst their chains and let us throw their bindings from us.**”
- b)**
God
4. The one sitting in the heavens laughs, the master mocks at them.
 5. Then He will speak to them in His anger and in His rage He will make them nervous.
 6. “**But as for me, I anointed my king over Zion, the hill of my holiness.**”
- c)**
Messiah
7. I will record the decree of Yahweh. He said to me, “**You are my son. It was I who gave birth to you today.**”
 8. **Ask of me and I will give nations of your inheritance and your possession the ends of the earth.**
 9. **You will rule them with a rod of iron; like a potter’s vessel you will shatter them.**”
- d)**
Psalmist
10. So now, O kings, consider wisely. Be disciplined, O judges of earth.
 11. Serve Yahweh with fear and rejoice with trembling.
 12. Pay homage openly, otherwise He will become angry and y’all will perish in the way, for His anger rages like a short [fuse]. Oh the blessings of all who take refuge in Him!

Chiastic Structure – by chapter

1. What have the nations clamored for and peoples meditated on vanity for?
 2. Kings of the earth set themselves up, and distinguished men establish unity against Jehovah and against His Anointed One. 3. “Let us burst their chains and let us throw their bindings from us.”
 4. The one sitting in the heavens laughs, the master mocks at them.
 5. Then He will speak to them in His anger and in His rage He will make them nervous.
 6. But as for me, I anointed my king over Zion, the hill of my holiness. 7. I will record the decree of Yahweh. He said to me, “You are my son. It was I who gave birth to you today.”
 8. Ask of me and I will give nations of your inheritance and your possession the ends of the earth.
 9. You will rule them with a rod of iron; like a potter’s vessel you will shatter them.
 10. So now, O kings, consider wisely. Be disciplined, O judges of earth
 11. Serve Yahweh with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12. Pay homage without hindrance, otherwise He will become angry and y’all will perish in the way, for His anger rages like a short [fuse].
- Oh the blessings of all who take refuge in Him!



v.6 But as for me, I spread my king over Zion, the hill of my holiness.

Emphatic “I” changes the tone. Who is this?

- Distinct from the King
- Holy (“my holy hill” or “the hill of my holiness”)
- The Lord who laughs (v.4) and speaks (v.5) and has a son (v.7)
- Davidic covenant fulfilled in Jesus.

Lit. “spread” / fig. “Set/installed” (nasak) (Pro. 8:23)

- Mostly refers to “pouring out” drink offerings (19/23x in O.T.)
- “cast” metal (Isa. 40:19, 44:10)
 - Poured out
 - Molded
 - Protecting

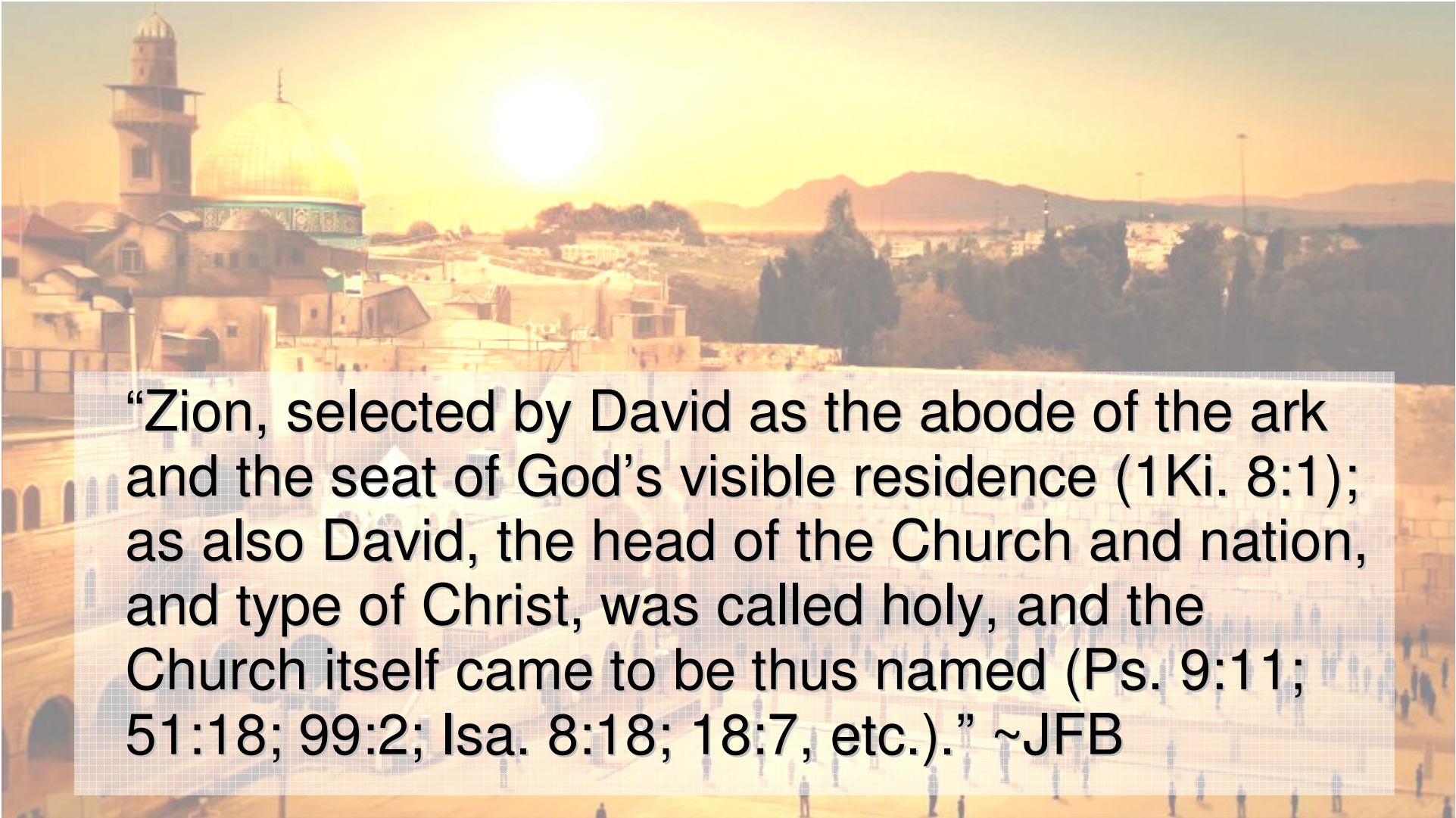


v.6 “Zion My Holy Hill”

Appears only 4 other times in Bible, all referring to the “day of the Lord” – the Messiah’s 1st or 2nd Coming.

- **Joel 3:16-17** The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more. (**also Joel 2:1**)
- **Obad. 1:17** But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. (*different Hebrew word from “possess” in Ps. 2:8*)
- **Zech. 8:3** Thus says the LORD, “I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts *will be called* the Holy Mountain.”

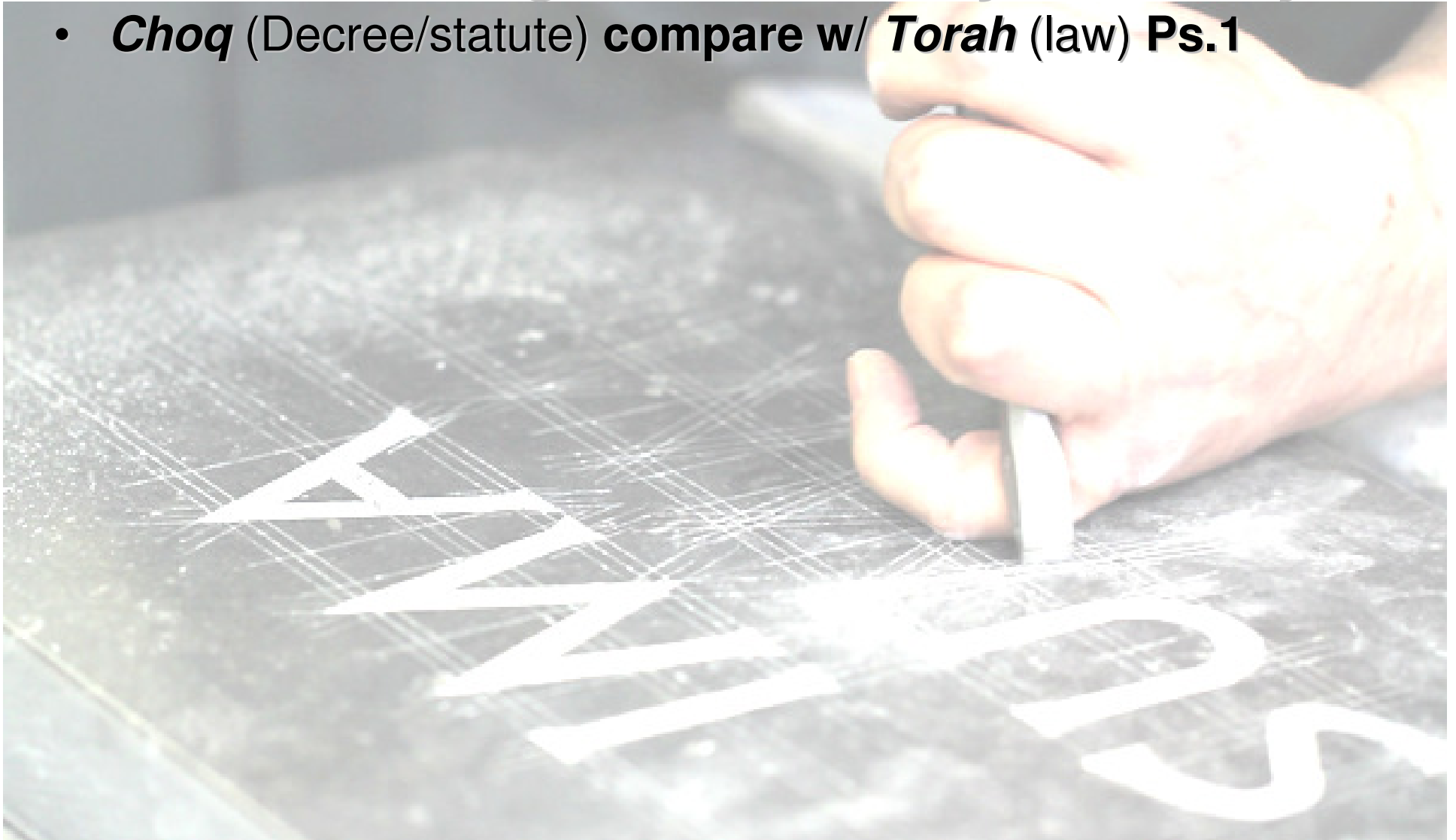
v.6 “Zion My Holy Hill”



“Zion, selected by David as the abode of the ark and the seat of God’s visible residence (1Ki. 8:1); as also David, the head of the Church and nation, and type of Christ, was called holy, and the Church itself came to be thus named (Ps. 9:11; 51:18; 99:2; Isa. 8:18; 18:7, etc.).” ~JFB

**v.7 I will record the decree of Yahweh.
He said to me, “You are my son. It
was I who gave birth to you today.”**

- ***Choq*** (Decree/statute) compare w/ ***Torah*** (law) **Ps.1**



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He said to me, “You are my son. It
was I who gave birth to you today.”**

- ***Choq*** (Decree/statute) compare w/ ***Torah*** (law) Ps.1
- **“The kingdom of Messiah is founded upon... an eternal decree... the federal transactions between the Father and Son concerning man’s redemption represented by the covenant of royalty made with David. “ ~M. Henry**
- **Heb. 1:5 Quotes Ps. 2:7** proving Jesus eternally superior to angels because they are not called “sons” of God.
- **Cf. “only begotten son” John 1:18, 3:16, 1 John 4:9.**
- **2 Sam. 7:14-17 *Nathan to David*: “... I will raise up your descendant after you... He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him & he will be a son to Me”**
- **“...even as there was a day in David’s life ... so there would, of course, be a corresponding day in the life of Christ when His unique relation to the Father was declared in a most significant way... His resurrection...”**

v.7 – “the decree of the Lord”

- **Psalm 110** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." ... The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. He will judge among the nations...
- **Covenantal language: Deut. 26:17-19** "You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken."
- **Cf. covenant renewals of Solomon** (1Kings 8:61), **Josiah** (2 Chron. 34:31), and **Nehemiah** (10:29).

v.7 – “today I have begotten you”

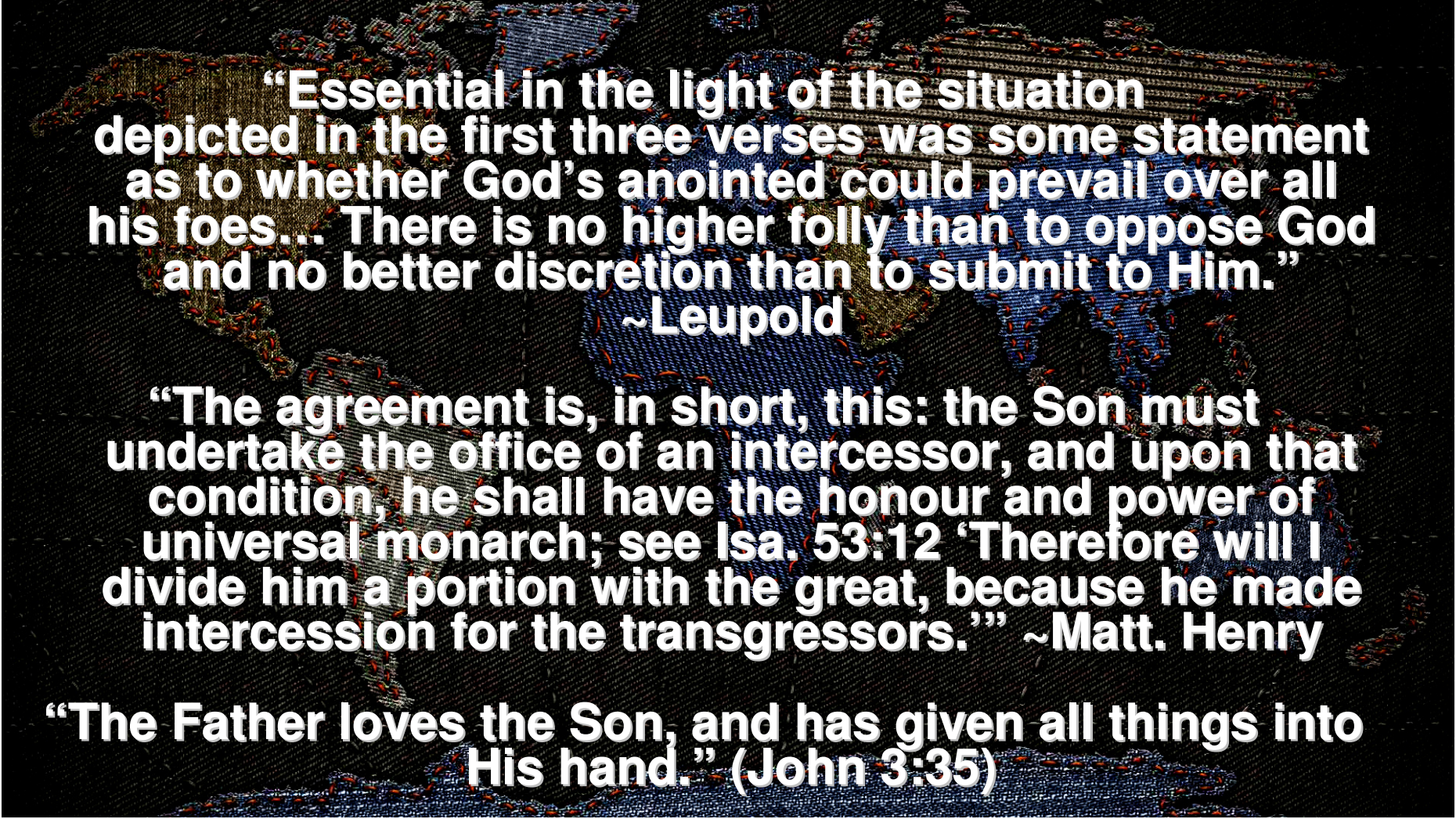
N.T. development

- **Luke 1:35** “... the power of the Highest shall overshadow you, therefore also that holy thing, which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.”
- **Mat 3:17** “This is My beloved Son in whom I am pleased”
- **Acts 13:32-33** “And we preach the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm...” (cf. Heb. 1:5; 5:5; 11:17)
- **Rom. 1:4** ...declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead...

When is “today” to an eternal God?

- **Isaiah 43:13** “Before the day was I am he.”
- **2 Pet. 3:8** With him one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day.

v.8 Ask of me and I will give nations of your inheritance and your possession the ends of the earth.



**“Essential in the light of the situation depicted in the first three verses was some statement as to whether God’s anointed could prevail over all his foes... There is no higher folly than to oppose God and no better discretion than to submit to Him.”
~Leupold**

“The agreement is, in short, this: the Son must undertake the office of an intercessor, and upon that condition, he shall have the honour and power of universal monarch; see Isa. 53:12 ‘Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, because he made intercession for the transgressors.’” ~Matt. Henry

“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” (John 3:35)

v.8 *Ephsey aretz* “ends of the earth”



All 13 O.T. occurrences indicate Messiah’s jurisdiction to judge, to save or punish, and to reign.

1Sam. 2:10 Those who contend with Yahweh will be shattered Against them He will thunder in the heavens, Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt... His anointed.

Prov. 30:4 Who has ascended into heaven and descended? ... Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? ...

Isa. 45:22 Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Jer. 16:19 Yahweh... my refuge in the day of distress, To You the nations will come from the ends of the earth...

Micah 5:4 He will arise & shepherd *His flock* in the strength of Yahweh... great To the ends of the earth.

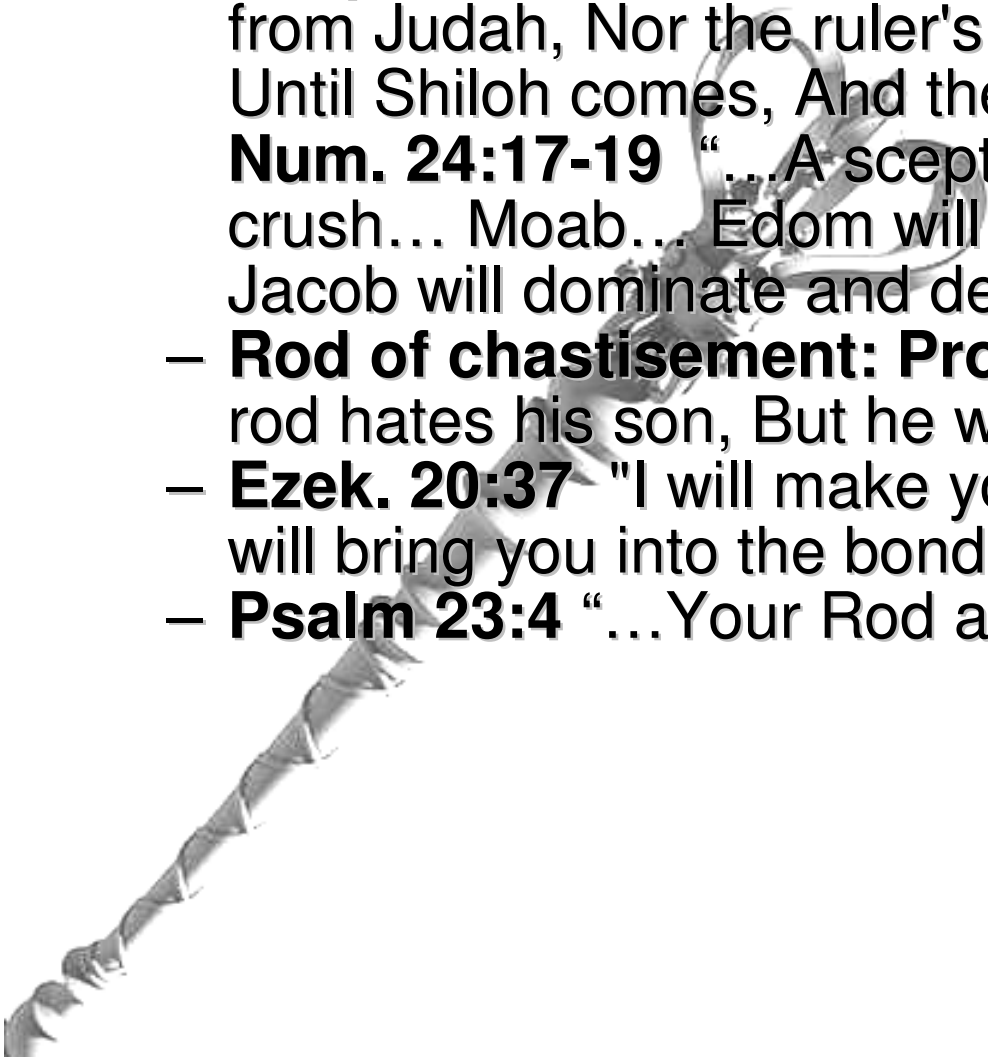
Zech. 9:10 ...He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be ... to the ends of the earth.

- Cf. Deut. 33:17, Ps. 22:27, 59:1,3 67:7, 98:3, 72:8, Isa 52:10

v.9 You will rule them with a rod of iron; like a potter's vessel you will shatter them.

“rod of iron” שבט ברזל

- **Scepter (NIV): Gen 49:10** "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And the peoples obey Him"
- **Num. 24:17-19** "...A scepter will rise from Israel and crush... Moab... Edom will be a possession... One from Jacob will dominate and destroy the urban remnant."
- **Rod of chastisement: Pro 13:24** He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him.
- **Ezek. 20:37** "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;
- **Psalm 23:4** "...Your Rod and your staff comfort me"



v.9 You will rule them with a rod of iron; like a potter's vessel you will shatter them.

“rod of iron” שֵׁבֶט בַּרְזֶל (Scepter or Punishment)

Tro'am with Masoretic pointings (1000 AD) means “Break”

- LXX (200BC), N.T. (Rev. 2:27, 12:5, 19:15 – 1st C. AD), Vulgate (400AD), NIV (1973AD) use diff. vowel pointings changing assumed root from רעע to רעה “shepherd/rule.” (Not in DSS to compare earlier Hebr.) **Both true...**

Break/shatter/dash used of God's judgment upon Israel

- **Isa. 8:9** Be broken [רעע], O peoples, and be shattered; And give ear, all remote places of the earth...
- **Jer. 13:14-16** I will dash [נפץ] them to pieces against each other... I will not... have compassion... Give glory to the LORD your God, Before He brings darkness...
- Jewish nation shattered by Rome - “iron feet” Dan. 2:40.

Break/shatter/dash used of other nations:

- **Job 34:24** He breaks [רעע] in pieces mighty men without inquiry, And sets others in their place.
- **Jer. 51:20** You [Babylon] are My war-club... And with you I shatter [נפץ] nations And destroy kingdoms.

Ps 2:9 in the Light of an Ancient Oriental Custom Albert Kleber

v.10 “be wise/show discernment”

- Therefore, 5 imperatives. 1) *Shekel* – consider, understand, be prudent, and prosper (as a spectrum)

How do you get wise?

- **Deut. 29:9** "So keep the words of this covenant to do them, that you may prosper [שָׁכַל] in all that you do.
- **Josh. 1:8** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do ... it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success [שָׁכַל].
- **1Kings 2:3** "Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed [שָׁכַל] in all that you do and wherever you turn,
- **Ps. 111:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who act on it...
- **Fulfillment: Isa 52:13** Behold, My servant will prosper [שָׁכַל], He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

v.10 “be instructed/take warning”

- יסר (Passive – Niphal) Literally “get punished”

Leviticus 26:23-24 'And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me, then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike [יסר] you seven times for your sins.

Psalms 94:10-12 He who chastens [יסר] the nations, will He not rebuke, *Even* He who teaches man knowledge? ... Blessed is the man whom You chasten [יסר], O LORD, And whom You teach out of Your law;

Pro 19:18 Discipline [יסר] your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.

Jeremiah 2:19 "Your own wickedness will correct [יסר] you, And your apostasies will reprove you; Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter For you to forsake the LORD your God...

v.11 Serve Yahweh with fear and rejoice with trembling.

1) Be Wise 2) Be Admonished

3) Serve (ESV=worship)

4) “Rejoice” [גִּיל] includes saying it out loud

- **1Chron. 16:31** ... let the earth rejoice; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
- **Ps. 9:14** That I may tell of all Your praises, That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.
- **Isa. 49:13** Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people And will have compassion on His afflicted.
- **With TREMBLING**
“Fear without joy is torment; and joy, without holy fear, would be presumption.” ~Spurgeon

v.12 Pay homage openly, otherwise He will become angry & y'all will perish in the way, for His anger rages like a short [fuse]. Oh the blessings of all who take refuge in Him!

נשק Kiss (lit.) / Do homage (fig.)

- **Express affection** (particularly the closeness of kinship)
- **Anointing a king** (1 Sam. 10:1 – loyalty, allegiance)
- **Act of worship** (“kiss the calves” Hosea 13:2; 1 Kings 19:18; Job 31:27; “Worship the Lamb” Rev. 5:12-13.)
- **Declare reconciliation/peace** (“Kiss & make up”)

בר “openly” vs. “the son”

- “Bar” (here) is Aramaic, not Hebrew for “son”
- “Gentiles” North & East of Israel used “bar” for “son.” (cf. 9th C. Phoenician inscription, Prophecy of Daniel)
- “Bar” used for “son” in O.T. only in Prov. 31:2 and here?
- “Bar” in Hebrew means “pure/ open/ unobstructed/ informed,” thus LXX, Vulgate, Wyc, A. Clark, NEJV, NET.
- Could be an uncommon Hebrew word for “son” chosen for poetic reasons (Leup., Del., KJV, Gnva, Ibn Ezra, Kimchi)
- “Son” is in the context, although spelled “Ben” in v.7
- Quotes in Acts 13:33 and Heb. 1:5 read “son” (Both true)

v.12 Pay homage openly, otherwise He will become angry & y'all will perish in the way, for His anger rages like a short [fuse]. Oh the blessings of all who take refuge in Him!

Kiss (lit.) / Do homage (fig.) נשק

– Worship

– Profess allegiance to king (1 Sam. 10:1)

– Express affection to family members

– Declare reconciliation (“we are at peace”)

“openly” vs. “the son” בר

Like a Short/Moment/Little/Soon כמעט

- “way of sinners... perish” – cf. Psalm 1:1&6
- Don't dare “challenge the wrathful zeal of Jahve for His Christ”! ~Delitzsch
- “The patience of the offended ruler can bear little more. His being a just wrath in a just cause, it is not to be trifled with.” ~Leupold

1) Be Wise 2) Be Admonished, 3) Serve 4) Rejoice 5) Kiss

v.12 “blessed are all refugees” **חסה**

Deut. 32:37 “...Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?”

Judges 9:15 “...If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come and take refuge in my shade...”

Ruth 2:12 “May ... your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.”

2 Samuel 22:3 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior...

Isaiah 57:13 “When you cry out, let your collection of *idols* deliver you. But the wind will carry all of them away... But he who takes refuge in Me will inherit the land And will possess My holy mountain.”

Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Three paradigms

- **Psalmist**
- **Messiah**
- **You**

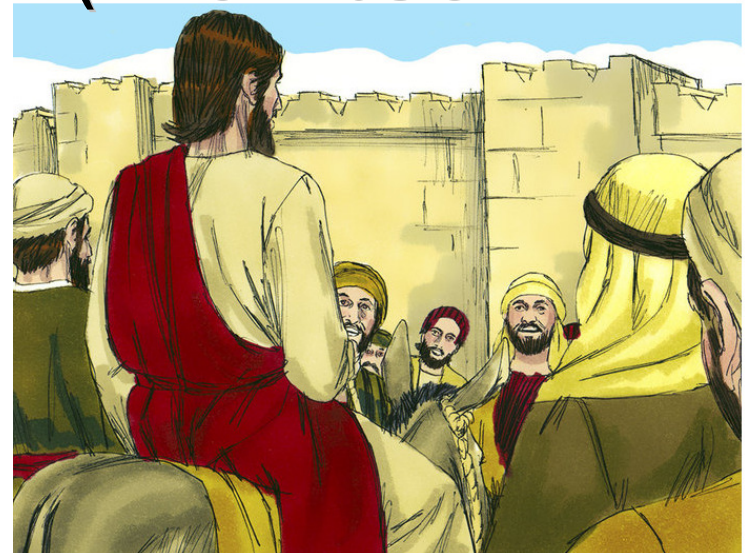
Meaning to Psalmist



- “Rage” and “Plot” in v.1 are Past tense (Vav Consecutive)
- “Nations rage” – Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Syrians against David (2 Sam 8-10)
- Conquered and “inherited” by David and Israel (Psalm 78:55 , cf. Jeremiah 3:19)
- David “anointed” king by Samuel, calls God “Father,” received covenant of eternal kingship (Ps 89:26-27) and triumphed, trusting God.
- Instated worship in Jerusalem (“holy hill”).
- Political submission to Jehovah in the person of His representative is primarily intended...
David was a type of Christ...” ~Leupold

David as “type” of Messiah

- “...refers to an actual situation which obtained in the days of some theocratic king of Judah... this earthy king would then serve as a type of Christ, not accidentally but by virtue of divine appointment. He would have experienced something on a lower level which is closely analogous to what the Messiah encounters on the higher level... portray[ing] the truth concerning the Messiah...” ~**Leupold**
- “Under the type of David’s kingdom (which was of divine appointment, met with much opposition, but prevailed at last) the kingdom of the Messiah, the Son of David, is prophesied of, which is the primary intention and scope of the psalm...” ~**Matthew Henry**



Meaning to Messiah

Acts 4:25-29 “God...who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of ...David ...said, 'Why did the gentiles rage... rulers were gathered together against the lord and against His Christ.' For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever ... predestined to occur. And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence...”

- Jesus is THE Son of God (Act 13:33, Rom 1:4, Heb 1:5, 5:5)
- “The terrible conflicts of the last days will illustrate both the world's love of sin and Jehovah's power to give the kingdom to his only Begotten.” ~Spurgeon
- “‘Ask of me...’ The doctrine of the kingdom and sonship of Christ, is immediately followed by the doctrine of His priesthood, one branch of which office is intercession, and we are at once told of its prevalence with God. Here is Christ's ‘patent for his office of Advocate.’ ... The intercession of Christ is the hope of the world.” ~Plumer

v.8 “inheritance of nations”

The people of God Israel/Christians are
what God the Son gets for His inheritance!

- **Psalm 79:1** “O God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance; They have defiled Your holy temple...”
- **Jeremiah 16:18** “...they have polluted My land; they have filled My inheritance with ... their detestable idols ...”
- **Joel 3:2** “...My people and My inheritance, Israel”
- **Ephesians 1:14-18** the Spirit who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory... *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
- “This prophecy [of literally universal dominion] can only refer to the Messiah.” ~Stott (cf. Rev. 11:15 “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”)

Meaning to You

1. v12 “Blessed are all who take refuge in Him” – “bottom line”
 - **“All” includes “Gentiles” (Ps. 2:1) and includes You!**
2. **“Happiness/Blessedness” comes from submission/ seeking refuge in Jesus and joyfully honoring His law.**
 - It’s insane to love sin and try to escape God’s law. (It’ll make you the bad-guy buffoon.)
 - “To a graceless neck the yoke of Christ is intolerable, but to the saved sinner it is easy and light. We may judge ourselves by this, do we love that yoke, or do we wish to cast it from us?” ~Spurgeon
3. “Whenever the world persecutes the Church, this psalm comes alive & receives another fulfillment... [giving] a quiet confidence in the overruling providence of God.” ~Stott
 - **Persecution, is normative, but temporary.** The world will hate you because they hate the Sovereign Jesus, and you remind them of Him.

Meaning to You

1. Happiness comes from submission/seeking refuge in Jesus and joyfully honoring His law.
2. Persecution, is normative, but temporary.
3. **Ask God for nations and fulfill the**
 - **Dominion Mandate**
(“Multiply, fill the earth, subdue it” Gen. 1:27),
 - **Lord’s Prayer**
(“Thy kingdom come” Mat. 6:10),
 - **Great Commission**
(“Make Disciples of all nations” Matt. 28:19)

v.8 “inheritance of nations”



Matt. 5:5 Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth

Matt. 19:29 all who left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

Matt. 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

1Pet. 1:4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is imperishable* and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven...

Rev. 21:1,7 I saw a new heaven and new earth... He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Rev. 2:26-29 “He who overcomes and keeps My deeds until the end, ‘To him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron,’ as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received *authority* from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear ...”

Meaning to You

1. Happiness comes from submission/seeking refuge in Jesus and joyfully honoring His law.
2. Persecution, is normative, but temporary.
3. Ask God for nations; fulfill Dominion Mandate (Gen. 1), Lord's Prayer (Thy kingdom come), and Great Commission (Matt. 28)!
4. **Serve with fear, rejoice with trembling: Worship sincerely, reverently, and joyfully.**
 - **Hebrews 12:25-29** See that ye refuse not Him that speaks. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spoke on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from Him that *speaks* from heaven... 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven...' Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, For our God *is* a consuming fire. (Deut. 4:24)

Meaning to You

1. Happiness comes from submission/seeking refuge in Jesus and joyfully honoring His law.
2. Persecution, is normative, but temporary.
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4. Serve with fear, rejoice with trembling: Worship sincerely, reverently, and joyfully.
 - **“We may be confident that victory will be given to our Lord and King. Glorious triumphs are yet to come; hasten them, we pray thee, O Lord! It is Zion's glory and joy that her King is in her, guarding her from foes, and filling her with good things. Jesus sits upon the throne of grace, and the throne of power in the midst of his church. In him is Zion's best safeguard; let her citizens be glad in him.” ~Spurgeon, *Treasury of David***

Credits

- Images from Microsoft ClipArt
- Bible translations include Nate Wilson's of the Psalm, NKJV and NASB

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