

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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God's Sovereignty?

(Jerry Fite)

Many go through life never giving much thought concerning Jesus. He lived so long ago, how is He relevant to our modern times? If one wants to believe in Jesus that will be fine, but there seems to be no serious repercussions or life catastrophes if one doesn't.

The second Psalm spoke of God's anointed which Jesus fulfilled on earth almost 1,000 years later. The inspired Hebrew writer twice refers to Jesus fulfilling: “*Jehovah said unto me, ‘Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee’*” (Psalm 2:7, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5). This decree was not fulfilled by an angel, but by Jesus when his spirit was reunited with his body and raised from the tomb (Acts 13:33).

Psalm 2 also points to the experiences of those who would follow Jesus. “*Why do the nations rage, and the peoples meditate a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against Jehovah, and against His anointed saying...*” (Psalm 2:1-3). When the apostles gathered to pray for God's help after suffering persecution for preaching in the authoritative name of Jesus, they gained

strength from David's prophetic statement as to how rulers of the world would react to Jesus (cf. Acts 4:25-27). No, the world and its rulers were not going to roll the red carpet out for God's anointed, but would instead reject Jesus and persecute those who claimed Him as their king.

David, Jesus and the apostles have come to this earth and left. Yes, it is interesting to study fulfilled prophecy, and yes, I am impressed that such statements find fulfillment centuries later. But what does Psalm 2 have to do with me having to make a decision regarding Jesus in my life?

The answer is found in Psalm 2 with its overriding theme: the sovereignty of God. If you, like the rulers of the world, decide to cut off all ties to God and His anointed Christ Jesus, the action is not inconsequential. David reminds us of a side of God that many never consider. He laughs in derision! He is sore displeased with the world's response (Psalm 2:4). The world's rejection is not just saying no, but is an affront to God's sovereignty. God laughs from above in the heavens as rulers attempt to ignore God's sovereignty on earth. Despite the rulers taking counsel, God with sobering

derision says, “*Yet I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion*” (Psalm 2:5).

He rules over the kings of the earth, even when such rulers believe they have broken God's bonds. The Roman august rulers were not as august as Jesus, who as God's anointed, breaks rulers with a rod of iron; and dashes them in pieces as a potter's vessel (Psalm 2:9). The persecuted Christians relied on these characteristics of God's anointed, when they were being persecuted in the first century (Revelation 2:25-27).

Man never travels far enough nor lives long enough to avoid God's sovereignty and the authority of His anointed Jesus. All authority has been given to Him from the Father in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). What should we do? Along with kings, we should all “*serve Jehovah with fear, and rejoice with trembling*” (Psalm 2:11). In reverent worship we should “*Kiss the son, lest He be angry, and ye perish in the way*” (Psalm 2:12).

You cannot ignore Jesus with impunity. Wise up to submit your life to God's sovereignty, and reverence His Son!