

Mixtape

Mixtape: through the psalms

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1:1-3

If the bible is a love story written from God to us, then Psalm 2 is the hope of love written in song lyrics.

Today we are going to explore Psalm 2 and see what these song lyrics say about what Israel was hoping for.

Psalm 2:1-12

¹Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

³"Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."

⁴The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

⁵He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

⁶"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.

⁸Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

¹⁰Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.

¹²Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

There are three parts of this song that are quoted in the NT. This morning let's see what the writers of the NT believed this song pointed to, who did they think these lyrics were about?

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS THOUGHT THIS PASSAGE POINTED TO JESUS

In Acts 3 Peter and John healed a man who couldn't walk. The Jewish leaders put Peter and John in jail because they were preaching about Jesus. The next day they were brought before the Jewish ruling council. Listen to what they said about Jesus to this group of Jewish leaders...

Acts 4:9-12

⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”

¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Notice that Peter and John simply pointed to Jesus.

Let me stop here and talk a little about what it means to be bold. We live in a pluralistic world, which means that there are a million different lenses by which to view things.

Jonathan Parnell in an article entitled **Why Boldness Matters Now** wrote:

A pluralistic world is like a raging river of clashing currents. The currents are the vast array of competing stories. In our world, everybody's got a story. Everybody lives by some story that tries to make sense of it all, whether cultural, religious, or ideological.

That's so true. Everyone has a story and those stories shape each person's world view. In other words, those stories dictate how and why people make the choices they make in life.

Don't believe me? Ask someone why they feel a certain way about something. There's always a story. It's always about some pain, some event, something that happened that shaped their lives.

Have you ever been in a river with currents?

Bonnie and I went white water rafting one time when we were first married. It was tons of fun, until we all fell out of the raft and one of our friends got sucked under the boat. She came up in tears. The current sucked her under and she couldn't find her way back to the surface. And when she finally did, she was under the raft and running out of breath.

It is essential that we get clear on who Jesus is and what his work means for the world.

Richard Bauckham in his book Bible and Mission says: "Only the Bible tells a story that in some sense encompasses all other human stories [and] draws them into the meaning that -God's story with the world- gives them."

The truth of Jesus in God's story must be our navigating force. If it's not, we'll simply be tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every other current's pull.

The main issue in the world is not about an about an opinion it's about a person. And that person is Jesus. Boldness in our culture is not about voicing our opinion, it's about deciding who is Lord.

Acts 4:13-14

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

Peter and John's boldness was rooted in the fact that they had been with Jesus. They were so bold that the Jewish leaders had no choice but to release them.

And here's the prayer that the other believers prayed when Peter and John had been released...

Acts 4:23-30

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

" 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

The early church believed so wholeheartedly that Jesus was the Messiah that they quoted this song written by King David in Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:1-2

¹Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed

Think about it. The song lyrics mention... nations, peoples, kings, and rulers – and the people who prayed made the connection with Gentiles (nations), Jewish people (peoples), Herod (king), and Pilate (rulers).

Acts 4:27

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

The first Christians believed that Jesus was the answer to the predictions in the Old Testament. They were not afraid to make the connection. They lived their faith boldly because they believed wholeheartedly.

THE GOSPEL WRITERS THOUGHT THIS PASSAGE POINTED TO JESUS

Verse 7 is paraphrased by three of the four gospel writers at both Jesus baptism and at the transfiguration.

The psalmist writes...

Psalm 2:7

⁷I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.

At Jesus baptism Luke records...

Luke 3:21-22

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke chapter 9 Jesus takes Peter, James and John up onto a mountain to pray. While the disciples were sleeping the Bible says that Jesus face and clothes began to glow and Moses and Elijah appeared there with Jesus.

Then God spoke from heaven...

Luke 9:34-35

³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Notice these words. "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." Sounds a lot like David's lyrics in Psalm 2.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all point to Jesus as the fulfillment of David's song lyrics. And this holds even more weight, given the fact that God spoke audibly only three times during Jesus' ministry and twice he paraphrased this verse.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION THINKS THIS PASSAGE POINTS TO JESUS

Maybe John, who was at both Jesus' baptism and transfiguration was listening when God spoke about Jesus and quoted Psalm 2. John quotes Psalm 2:9 three times in the book of Revelation.

Here's Psalm 2:9 again...

Psalm 2:9

⁹You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Three times the book of Revelation quotes from this lyric...

Revelation 2:26-28

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery' —just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸I will also give that one the morning star.

Revelation 12:5

⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

Revelation 19:15-16

¹⁵Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

Each of these references point to Jesus as the one Psalm 2 talks about. And this is just one passage. Just one time the OT predicts the Messiah and Jesus fulfills the prediction.

The early church believed Jesus was the one. The gospel writers believed Jesus was the one. The book of Revelation believed that Jesus was the one.

The NT clearly points to Jesus as the one who fulfills the prophecy of the OT. Time and time again the evidence is clear. Jesus is the One.

There are PROPHECIES that predict who Jesus will be, what He will do, how He will be born, and even how He would die.

Christians think that this person was Jesus, but **is it reliable that Jesus was THE ONE?**

The most powerful way to answer this question is to look at the PROPHECIES about Jesus and see how He stacked up.

Here's 7 quick prophecies made about Jesus:

- He would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
- He would be preceded by a forerunner (John The Baptist) - Malachi 3:1
- He would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey - Zechariah 9:9
- He would be betrayed by a friend - Zechariah 13:6
- He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12-13
- He would stand silent before His oppressors - Isaiah 53:7
- He would die by crucifixion - Psalm 22:16

Some of these predictions are very specific and impossible to manipulate like, where He was born. It would be impossible to prearrange that in order to manipulate a series of PROPHECIES.

The weight of these prophecies is SUBSTANTIAL and therefore cannot be ignored.

Peter Stoner in his book "[Science Speaks](#)" calculates the chances of ONE MAN fulfilling these 7 prophecies at 1 in one hundred quadrillion - that's a 1 with 17 zeroes behind it.

Another way to illustrate this would be filling the entire state of Texas with silver dollars 2 feet deep, painting one of them and then blindfold someone and tell them to find it.

Here's the cool thing, Jesus didn't just fulfill 7 prophecies.

There are at least 50 other MAJOR prophecies about Jesus and dozens of minor prophecies - knowing this makes the odds of one man fulfilling all these prophecies ASTRONOMICAL, and nearly incalculable.

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about Him in His lifetime. This fact alone makes me say "**YES, Jesus is reliable.**"

So what if you took those odds? What if you decided today that it is believable that Jesus is the fulfillment of all those prophecies, all those predictions?

Here's the cool thing, if you do, then you can also buy into all the promises that are rooted in Jesus.

The bible teaches us that:

"there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"

"If God is for us, who can stand against us?"

"God will graciously give us all things"

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

If you put your HOPE in JESUS it means....

Forgiveness of your sins.

Peace from your past.

You actually have HOPE based on something SOLID.

You can cast all of your ANXIETY, WORRY and FEAR onto Him and HE will give you PEACE.

Your future is SECURE. Even if everything HERE falls apart, your eternity can be secure.

You have no need to WORRY.

You cannot be SHAKEN.

You can be JOYFUL in any situation.

You have eternity with Jesus waiting for you.

You are ANCHORED.

Hebrews 6:19

¹⁹We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

What would it look like if we actually KNEW and LIVED like we were anchored to Jesus?

It means you survive the storm. Being anchored to Jesus doesn't mean that there won't be STORMS, there will be, but when you are anchored to Jesus, the storms of this life DO NOT SWEEP YOU AWAY.

We can trust Jesus.

We can put our HOPE in Jesus.

And we can do this based on the FACT that he fulfilled every prophecy made about the SAVIOR.

Jesus is the one that all of mankind was waiting for and NEEDS.

Small Group Questions.

1. Can you think of a significant event in your life where your view on life and the world changed?
2. Discuss the concept of “competing currents”. Where do you find yourself when Biblical and cultural currents collide?
3. The truth of Jesus in God’s story must be our navigating force. In a world where people take many different paths, how do we get people to follow the path of Jesus?
4. What is a prophet? Where does prophecy come from? Who does prophecy come through?
5. Have people in the group look up these 7 prophecies. Here’s 7 quick prophecies made about Jesus: He would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:7. He would be preceded by a forerunner (John The Baptist) - Malachi 3:1. He would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey - Zechariah 9:9. He would be betrayed by a friend - Zechariah 13:6. He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12-13. He would stand silent before His oppressors - Isaiah 53:7. He would die by crucifixion - Psalm 22:16. The fulfilling of these prophecies, does this strengthen our faith?
6. Some people need evidence of Biblical prophecy, while others just accept it as so. Where do you think you fall between the two?
7. What would it look like if we actually KNEW and LIVED like we were anchored to Jesus?
8. Jesus is the one that all of mankind was waiting for and NEEDS. If this statement is true, why do we look to so many other places seeking for truth?