

September 16, 2009

Psalm 2 (ESV)

**Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
"Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."
He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
"As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."
I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

Rarely do we stand up to bullies, especially if they're bigger, stronger, and wealthier than we. But that's what the psalmist is doing here. David is making it clear to the powers that surround Israel that God's will cannot be thwarted. We shouldn't be surprised to find David in such a role. He did face Goliath, remember? And here, as in that episode earlier in David's life, David is keenly aware of some things that we would do well to remember:

1. God wins when He says He will.
2. God laughs at those who think they are in control but are really powerless before Him.
3. Everyone—absolutely every single person—is called upon to serve and worship the Lord in awe.
4. It is far better to be God's child than to be His enemy.

Psalms like this one both scare me and reassure me. I'm amazed at the way God loves and protects His children. But this doesn't mean that He keeps all the pain away from our doorsteps. The inspired writers of the New Testament applied much of this psalm to the life and ministry of Jesus, the Son of God. And we all know what happened to Jesus. God loved Him. God strengthened Him. God let Him die. God raised Him.

God's love is never simple or fully fathomable. There is a mystery to God that we cannot hope to solve while in this flesh. But we can live well enough with the knowledge of God that we already have. Here are some other things we know and would do well to remember, since we are also His children:

1. God loves us.
2. God will strengthen us in our trials.
3. God will let us die, but...
4. God will raise us up!

Amazed by Him,
Patrick Barber