

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2020

News of Interest

Here's the latest from Eleutheros Books:

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) is now available as an [eBook](#).

Progress is being made on another book which will be entitled *19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*. It should be ready for market before Christmas!

Check out these books also:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#)

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#)

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#)

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#)

These are available in both paperback and eBook. Go to www.eleutherosbooks.com

Thoughts from the Psalms

David lived an amazing life. At one time or another he was a shepherd boy, a warrior, a young man who had been anointed to be the king of Israel but hated by Saul, a king, a poet, an author, and a musician. He was also a man after God's heart and had such a close relationship with Him that he was able to ask tough questions and get answers from the God he loved.

In [Psalm 2](#) David ponders one of those tough questions: why do evil people, especially those who are in a position of authority, seem to go unpunished for doing hateful things?

1. *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*

David had faced the anger of heathen people who knew nothing about God and wonders why and how they can expect to gain anything from such emptiness in their lives.

2. *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and His anointed, saying, The old saying sometimes applies: "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Many of the leaders of other nations and tribes were very hateful and arrogant for no good reason. Sin never makes sense! "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; neither *can* he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)). Not only did these leaders hate David; they conspired together "against the Lord."*

3. *Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*
The goal of these evil men was to create chaos and destruction against Israel (God's chosen people) which had done them no wrong.
4. *He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall have them in derision.*
Quite obviously, God has a sense of humor! He is so powerful, so holy, so aware of their wicked plots! How can puny little people destroy the working of God?! He looks at their heart and their plans and sees how pitiful they are!
5. *Then shall he speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*
But God is also holy! There comes a time when He will take strong corrective action against those who so obviously and blatantly despise and plot against God and His people. Notice that this is the work of God, not man. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. Saith the Lord" ([Romans 12:19](#)). God knows how to deal with the people far better than we humans do!
6. *Yet have I set my King upon My holy hill of Zion.*
God not only aware of situations. He is also holy and sovereign, the King in heaven!
7. *I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.*
God gave David more revelation about His sovereignty and he was willing to declare it to all who would listen. The second half is applied to Jesus when He was baptized by John ([Matthew 3:16-17](#)).
8. *Ask of Me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*
God tells David to ask Him for victory and expect more than he could ever imagine! Not only would the arrogant and evil people be vanquished, but in the end, there was a restatement of promises that God had made to Abraham and his seed: "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice."
9. *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces in pieces like a potter's vessel.*
David responds to God in faith. He realizes that God has given him the answer to his question, and he was satisfied with what God had said. It is interesting to note that when Jesus comes back he will "smite the nations: and he will rule them with a rod of iron" ([Revelation 19:15](#)).
10. *Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.*
God had not yet destroyed Israel's enemies so He offers advice: learn and turn from your wicked ways!
11. *Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*

What can man do to avoid God's anger? Reverent service and joyful praise for Who He is!

This is not natural, but God is more than able to produce this miracle in hearts and lives!

12. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.

The first part of this verse stresses God's holiness and how He treats those who do not trust Him. The second part of this verse stresses the blessing that comes to those who do trust Him!

A few thoughts:

1. God answers us when we come to Him in frustration (notice verses 1-3). He loves us and will never forsake us ([Hebrews 13:5](#)). Further, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise" ([Psalm 51:17](#)).
2. God is in total control even though we may not realize it (notice verses 4-6).
3. God gives assurances and promises to those who love Him (notice verses 7-9).
4. God gives an opportunity to repent for those who have formerly ignored Him (notice 10-11).
5. There are very serious consequences to those who avoid God and very great blessings to those who trust in Him (notice verse 12)!

We will expound on another Psalm in next month's newsletter.