

## Psalm 2: The World Threatens

Read Psalm 2:1-3

Early in the Old Testament, God called Himself “Father” only in relationship to the people of Israel. They were His firstborn. Then when David became king of Israel, God spoke of him as His firstborn. He blessed His people through their king. This special individual sonship was extended to each of David’s descendents on the throne, culminating in Messiah, the final and eternal King from David’s line.

We’re going to look particularly at Psalm 2 to see what it adds to our picture of *God Our Father*. As one of the royal psalms, it was originally written about an earthly king, but it finds its ultimate fulfillment in the Ultimate King, Jesus Christ.

Imagine the picture drawn in Psalm 2:1-3. The most powerful human forces on earth are pooling all their resources and are focusing them on a single goal: overthrowing God’s rule here on earth, and specifically the rule of His Anointed One. It’s a sobering scene.

Originally this referred to Israel’s God and king. God’s people often experienced violent opposition from their enemies and the enemies of their God.

But in a higher sense, this Psalm is a picture of the world’s opposition to God and His rule - opposition to His demands and His authority, and to Christ Himself. We saw that opposition at Jesus’ birth and throughout His ministry, culminating in His crucifixion. We saw it directed against His Church in the book of Acts. We’ve seen it continually throughout human history in the persecution of God’s people, simply because they are God’s people. It continues today.

Realize this:

- Satan is constantly, completely opposed to God, His purposes, and His people, and especially to Christ, His Son.
- Satan enlists all those he influences in this opposition.
- Sometimes his opposition is violent. But when the situation demands it, his opposition can become more subtle and “respectable”. It can take the form of intellectual, cultural, and social pressure.

Satan is always conspiring against God and His Anointed One, and Psalm 2 has often been the Church’s bold response to that opposition.