

PSALM 2

At the beginning and ending of this psalm, the Psalmist speaks prophetically in his own person, while in the 7th, 8th, and 9th verses he speaks in the person of the Messiah. If we turn to Acts 4:25-28, we shall see that the beginning of this psalm was intended to show forth the opposition that would be made to Christ together with the vain attempts of the Jewish rulers and heathen kings and potentates to suppress or prevent the extension of Christianity. The impotence of such attempts is compared to the brittleness of a potter's vessel, while the power of the Almighty to punish or to crush them is described under the figure of a rod of iron. The same figures are used in Revelation 2:27 in connection with the triumphant outcome of a steady faith in Christ. This steady faith, productive of good works, imposes upon us the restraint of our passions. Let us not, therefore, impiously cast away those cords that attach us to Christ, nor break those bonds that connect us with the hope of salvation through his sufferings and merits, lest He who dwells in heaven should laugh us to scorn and hold us in derision. Rather, let us serve the Lord our God in fear, and rejoice with a reverential love for Jesus our Saviour. A day is soon coming when nothing will remain of the wisdom, learning, and power of this world, except that which is founded on faith, love, and obedience to God's commandments.

- 1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against YAHWEH and against his Anointed, saying,
- 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

- 7 I will tell of the decree: YAHWEH said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth
your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

- 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve YAHWEH with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 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.

PRAYER

O blessed Jesus, into whose hands are committed all dominion and power in the

kingdoms and empires of the world, on whose garment and thigh is written King of kings and Lord of lords, we adore you in your infinite excellence and most glorious majesty, beseeching you to reveal your name and the glory of your kingdom to the heathen who know you not, and to the uttermost parts of the earth which are given you for your possession and inheritance. And grant to us, your servants, who have been blessed with the light of your holy Gospel, that we may walk worthy of the vocation to which we have been called, showing forth your praise not only with our lips but in our lives. Increase our faith, hope, and love in order that we may obtain that which you have promised, and love that which you have commanded. Hear us, O merciful Saviour, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.