

Parallelism of Psalm Chapter 1 and Psalm Chapter 2

Psalm Chapter 1	Psalm Chapter 2
Emphasizes God's law	Focuses on prophecy
Delight in the law	The People defy the law
Begins with a beatitude (Psalm 1:1)	Ends with a beatitude (Psalm 2:12)
Never quoted in the New Testament	Is quoted more than once in the New Testament

Psalm 2 – The First Messianic Psalm

Theme: Are you raging against God?
Or are you taking refuge in Him?

Psalm 2 – The First Messianic Psalm (continued)

- The test of a Messianic psalm is that it is quoted in the New Testament as referring to Jesus (Luke 24:27, 44).
- **Luke 24:27(NLT)** - Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- **Luke 24:44(NLT)** - Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Psalm 2 – The First Messianic Psalm

(continued)

- But this is also a royal psalm, referring to the coronation (crowning) of a Jewish king and the rebellion of some nations that hoped to gain their freedom. Some psalms you see (Psalms 114, 130, 133), some psalms you feel (Psalms 22, 129, 137, 142), but this one you *hear*, because it is a record of **four (4)** voices.

1. *The Voice of the Nations,*
2. *The Voice of God the Father,*
3. *The Voice of God the Son, and*
4. *The Voice of the Holy Spirit*

**1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations
Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV)**

- 1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.” **Compare this with Acts 4:25-26**

Acts 4:25-26: **25** you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? **26** The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.’

**1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations
Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)**

a. Why do the nations rage? (verse 1):

- The nations have no reason to rage against God, and they have no benefit in raging against Him.
- God has provided for their basic needs (Acts 14:15-17NLT)

15 “Friends, why are you doing this? We are merely human beings—just like you! We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. **16** In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, **17** but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts.”

1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations

Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)

• He guided them, kept them alive, and sent a Savior to bring forgiveness and eternal life (Acts 17:24-31 NLT)

24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples,

25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.

26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

27 “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.

1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations

Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)

• He guided them, kept them alive, and sent a Savior to bring forgiveness and eternal life (Acts 17:24-31 NLT) continued

28 For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

29 And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

30 “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.

31 For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations

Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)

b. The rulers take counsel together (verse 2):

The nations and people in it, led by their kings and rulers, continue to direct their hostility toward the Lord and His anointed one. They believe that when two or more men are united against God, they have a better chance against God than one man set against God. The phrase, “set themselves” means “get ready for war”.

1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations
Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)

c. Against the LORD and against His Anointed (verse 2):

- They oppose both the LORD and His Anointed. Anointed speaks of the Christ, the Anointed One. Since Jesus is the perfect representation of the Father, opposing God the Father is to oppose Jesus. If you are against Jesus, you are against God the Father.

John 10:30 NLT "The Father and I are one".

John 14:9 NLT "Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"

- The nation's rebellion is not against God in some abstract way; they defy the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The one thing the nations can agree on is "we will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

1. Conspiracy – The Voice of the Nations
Psalm 2:1-3(NKJV) (continued)

d. Let us break Their bonds in pieces (verse 3):

- Those who oppose the LORD and His Anointed think of God as a bondage-bringer; God is a bondage-breaker, not a bondage-bringer.
- Verse 3 of NLT – 3 "Let us break their chains," they cry, "and free ourselves from slavery to God."
- The kings and minor rulers form a conspiracy to break the bonds that the Lord has established for their own good. But the attempt is futile (vain) because the only true freedom comes from submitting to God and doing His will.

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV)

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV) (continued)

a. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh (verse 4):

- God looks at the way man plots against Him and He laughs. God isn't afraid or confused or depressed about the opposition of man. God laughs at it. Psalm 37:13 (NIV) states "but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming".
- God laughs because He sits in the heavens. He sits as the Great King on a glorious throne.
- God laughs because He sits in the heavens. It isn't an earthly throne He occupies; it is the throne of heaven with authority over all creation.

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV) (continued)

b. The LORD shall hold them in derision (verse 4):

Through the centuries, many have opposed God and His Kingdom in Jesus Christ. Each one of these opponents shall be frustrated and crushed. Hold them in derision, means He would laugh them to scorn. To reject Jesus (God's Son), seals your doom. This is one thing God will not forgive.

- Matthew 10:32-33(NIV) states. "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven".

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV) (continued)

c. He shall speak to them in His wrath (verse 5):

- God laughs in heaven, but He doesn't remain inactive. Before He acts against defiant mankind, He first speaks to rebellious humanity. Today God is speaking to the nations in His Grace and calling them to trust His Son, but the day will come when God will speak to them in His wrath and send terrible judgment to the world.
- God is patient but there is a time when He will speak in His wrath. What a terrible thing to feel the wrath of God. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from the wrath to come.

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV) (continued)

“And distress them in His deep displeasure” (verse 5):

- It would certainly be the time to tremble, if the wrath of God was vented against you. We know that the soldiers which came to get Jesus fell backwards just at Jesus answering them (John 18:6 As Jesus said “I Am he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground!).
- The power in the voice of God is beyond our understanding. The voice of God speaking to the children of Israel from the mountain frightened them so that they begged Moses to talk to God for them. God was not even angry then.
- This shows the great mercy of God. He has every reason and every right to simply act against defiant men. Love and mercy compel God to speak a word of warning before He acts.

2. Mockery – The Voice of God the Father
Psalm 2:4-6(NKJV) (continued)

d. I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion (verse 6):

- God wants defiant mankind to know that He has established a King. The defiant men closest in view in the psalm are kings and rulers, and God especially wants them to know there is a King greater than they are. God’s King is established (set), and established in Jerusalem (Zion).
- God declares that there is but one legitimate King, and that is His Son who is now seated on the throne of glory (Mark 16:19 NLT, “When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand”).

3. Victory – The Voice of God the Son
Psalm 2:7-9(NKJV)

7 I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

**3. Victory – The Voice of God the Son
Psalm 2:7-9(NKJV) (continued)**

a. I will declare the decree (verse 7):

The following passage indicates that this is the LORD's Anointed Himself speaking. This informs the rebels that God rules His creation on the basis of sovereign decrees.

b. You are My Son, today I have begotten You (verse 7):

The LORD's Anointed recalls what God the Father spoke to Him, identifying Him as the Son of the Father and emphasizing His standing as begotten of the Father.

**3. Victory – The Voice of God the Son
Psalm 2:7-9(NKJV) (continued)**

c. I will give You the nations for Your inheritance (verse 8):

- The LORD's Anointed holds the nations as His inheritance. He will rule over all nations and all judgment is committed to Him (John 5:22).
- The Father has promised the Son complete victory over the nations, which means that one day He will reign over all the kingdoms of the world. **John 5:22(NIV)** states, "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son".
- **Revelation 11:15** describes an exciting consummation of this inheritance: Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

**3. Victory – The Voice of God the Son
Psalm 2:7-9(NKJV) (continued)**

d. You shall break them with a rod of iron verse 9):

- The LORD's Anointed has such power over the nations that they are like clay pots that he can shatter with a blow from a rod of iron. This shows why it is so foolish for the nations to defy the LORD and His Anointed. There is no reason and no benefit to their defiant opposition.
- "Rod of iron" is the scepter that represents kingship, iron being symbolic of strength. The phrase "dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" illustrates the strength of the king over the nations; in comparison to him, they are like fragile pottery.

**4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV)**

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

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.

**4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)**

a. Be wise, O kings (verse 10):

After the words of warning from the LORD’s Anointed, the psalmist counsels the kings of the earth to give up their foolish defiance of the LORD. The Spirit starts his appeal with the world leaders, because they are accountable to God for the way they govern the world. The people are enraged against God mainly because their leaders have incited them. They are ignorant because they follow the wisdom of this world and not the wisdom that comes from God (1 Corinthians 1:18-31). Let’s look at verses 18-25 of 1Corinthians.

**4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

19 As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”

20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (continued)

22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom.

23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)

b. Be instructed (verse 10):

They are proud of what they think they know, but they really know nothing about eternal truth. How can they learn? "Be instructed" from the Word of God; the word also means "to be warned." How gracious the Lord is to save sinners before His wrath is revealed.

4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)

c. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling (verse 11):

The psalmist calls the kings of the earth to surrender to God, giving Him proper reverence. In this submitted, surrendered place they can rejoice – yet with appropriate trembling. True believers know what it means to have the both fear and joy in their hearts. Love for the Lord casts out sinful fear (1 John 4:18) but perfects godly fear. We love our Father but still respect His authority.

**4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)**

d. Kiss the Son (verse 12):

This third appeal is to the heart and calls for submissive love and devotion to the King. In the ancient world, rulers would show their obedience to their king by kissing his hand or cheek. This is the kiss of submission and even reconciliation.

**4. Opportunity – The Voice of the Holy Spirit
Psalm 2:10-12(NKJV) (continued)**

e. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him (verse 12):

The Spirit ends with a word of warning and a word of blessing. The warning is that this loving King can also become angry and reveal His holy wrath suddenly and without warning

**Psalm 2 – Theme: Are you raging against God?
Or are you taking refuge in Him?**

The Blessing: Psalm 1 opens with "blessed" and Psalm 2 concludes with promised blessing for all who put their trust in the Son of God. That promise still stands (John 3:16-18).

John 3:16-18 New Living Translation

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.
