

## WHY DO THE NATIONS PLOT?

Our world has a hard time with Jesus Christ! They are not sure who Jesus is. Is he a prophet? Is he a lunatic? Is he a rebel-rouser? Or is he the King of nations, the Son of the creator of the world?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock.

Psalm 2 is an extraordinary song. It predicts the world's reaction to the coronation of Jesus Christ. The nations conspire; they rage; they will take their stand against the God of heaven who has anointed His Son as the king of nations. The Hebrew word "messiah" and the word "Christ" mean "anointed one." It was customary in ancient times to anoint new kings with oil on the head. A royal crown was then placed on the glistening head of the new king. A decree would be read in the hearing of all those present for the coronation. Psalm 2 contains God's decree concerning the new king of nations. "You are my son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery. Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flair up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him." (Psalm 2:7-12, NIV.)

The governments of the world are not the only people who have trouble with Jesus being the king of nations. The populations of the world also have trouble accepting Jesus as the king. We are like the people who heard Jesus in the first century. Jesus' apostle John wrote about the reaction of the people.

"He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:10-13, ESV.)

John and others were eyewitnesses of the coming of the Word of God into the world. John affirmed that "... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14, ESV.) John says that Jesus was "full of grace and truth." And he and others had received the Son's "fullness." That is, they became recipients of the grace of Christ, which is the forgiveness of Christ, and they came to know the truth from Christ, the truth of who He is, the ruler of the nations. John affirmed that Jesus had been with God all the way from the creation of the world. That He had come from the bosom of the Father. John was correct when he said, "No one has ever seen God; the only God who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known." (John 1:14-18, ESV.)

But yes, the populations of the world have had a problem believing in the One who came from God and went back to God to set on the throne of the world. This is not unlike the problem people had in the first century.

Some have dismissed Jesus like Nathaniel who said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip's reply to him was, "Come and see." (John 1:46, ESV.) This is what you and I should do today: we should investigate, "come and see", learn the facts, examine the evidence, open our minds to the possibility that Jesus is the King of nations. Nathaniel heard Jesus say one thing and he became convinced, he said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49, ESV.) Yes, Jesus was the King who was to come to Israel, but he was not to be just a king in Israel. He was destined to become the King of all Nations!

After Jesus had fed 5,000 people with fish and bread, the people of Galilee decided that Jesus would be an excellent king for Israel. After all, who could be a better king than one who could miraculously feed the nation! So they conspired to "take him by force to make him king." (John 6:15.) However, Jesus was not sent to be an earthly king so he withdrew from the crowd and went off by himself. You may remember that Satan had tempted Jesus with earthly kingship. "The devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power. The devil said to him, "I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus answered, "Go away Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.' " (Matthew 4:9-10,

CEV.) Jesus did not fall to the devil's temptation. Jesus was to become more powerful than any earthly king or kingdom. His kingdom would not only include all nations, but every celestial being would be subject to him.

"Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen. He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation. Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him. **17** God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together. **18** He is the head of his body, which is the church. He is the very beginning, the first to be raised from death, so that he would be above all others. **19** God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son. **20** And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God." (Colossians 1:16-20, CEV)

After sacrificing his blood on the cross and making purification for sins, Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3.) Jesus is "...the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of [God's] nature, and [Jesus] upholds the universe by the word of his power." [Jesus has] "...become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs." (Heb 1:3-4, ESV.) He has inherited the name "Son of God."

The whole population of the earth should shudder and tremble at the name of Jesus Christ. He is the King of all kings; he is the Lord of all lords.

But what do the governments of the world do? They neither acknowledge His rule nor His position. Christ does not want to be the King of governments. He wants to be the King of hearts. Governments can make their laws and force people to conform to them, but Jesus does not force Himself upon no one at this time. He calls to us. He informs us of a better way to live. And we can live according to the law of Christ whether we are poor or rich, whether we are males or females; whether we are white, black, brown, or red; whether we are circumcised or uncircumcised. God is called us all into the Kingdom of His Dear Son. Do you hear the call? **Will** you hear the call?

Yes, "The kings of this earth have all joined together to turn against the LORD and his chosen one. **3** They say, "Let's cut the ropes and set ourselves free!" **4** In

heaven the LORD laughs as he sits on his throne, making fun of the nations. <sup>5</sup> The LORD becomes furious and threatens them. His anger terrifies them as he says, <sup>6</sup> "I've put my king on Zion, my sacred hill." Earthly "Zion" is in earthly Jerusalem, but the Zion of which God speaks is a heavenly Zion in a heavenly Jerusalem.

Christians have not come "to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> [or to] the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.....<sup>22</sup> But [Christians] have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...." (Heb 12:18-24, ESV.)

Have you heard the call that calls you into this marvelous eternal Kingdom? The governments of the earth can conspire against the Lord and His anointed King, but they conspire in vain! The centuries have seen unbelievable persecutions of Christ's kingdom. But that kingdom still stands; it has not been shaken. There are still people who are courageously answering God's call. Friends, he calls you with this broadcast for the gospel is being preached. The truth is being told. God is tugging at your heartstrings with this message of salvation and the Kingship of Jesus Christ. Do you want to be a part of this eternal kingdom? You can follow King Jesus until you die...then you will be carried by the angels into unspeakable glory. The apostle Paul was once caught up into the third heaven; he said he saw things which he was not permitted to speak of. If you faithfully follow Christ then you will one of these days lift up your eyes in that heavenly realm! You need to obey Jesus Christ. No matter what the kings of earth may say or do, you need to obey Christ. It will make you a better citizen of the government you live under. Better citizens eventually make for better governments. And so, King Jesus has had some effects on the kingdoms of the world. But generally speaking, the kingdoms of the world do not like the authority of Jesus Christ.

Will you stand with Jesus?