INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 2 is not only about David and other kings of Israel. It is also about Jesus. The prophets said that Jesus would be king of all the nations. David never ruled the whole world. Jesus will rule the whole world. He will do this when He returns to the earth. Now He is ruling in heaven with God.

LESSON: 

I. SCENE 1: REBELLION ON EARTH  PSALM 2:1-3

2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?— The psalmist David asked this Question: What is it that ails the heathen (the Gentiles; or nations not apart of Israel). Why are the nations in tumultuous agitation? And what causes the masses to plan/plot that which is destined to come to nought? The people imagine a vain thing. "Vain" means empty and worthless. "Imagine" means meditate.

2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying,— What causes the kings of the earth and the rulers to band together in mutual purpose against the Lord, and against his anointed? The kings and the rulers are taking a stand, rising up, and revolting. They are taking counsel, plotting, and conspiring together against the Lord and His Anointed One! It was all in God’s plan. Acts 4:25-26, further substantiates these verses. They are saying that Herod, Pilate, and the Romans were fulfilling David’s prophecy about the nations being gathered together against God’s Son.

2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. The solution the kings and rulers thought of was to break away; tear their restraining bands apart, and fling off the control of the Lord and His Anointed One. Wow! Rebellious nations do not want God’s restraints! They prefer to establish their own conduct by what they feel is right to them. Well, that’s going on today! Ungodly leaders have a tendency to have ungodly subjects. When people are not subject to God, they have no morals, and the whole society turns to evil.

II. SCENE 2: RESPONSE IN HEAVEN  PSALM 2:4-6

2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. God’s response as He sits in the heavens is to laugh at their threats of trying to come against Him. We know quite well that whatever we come up with God already knows it before it comes from our tongue (Ps.139:4). He is not caught off guard! God views this as rebellion and shall have them in derision meaning He will mock and ridicule their evil plan.

- He sits and laughs and mocks them!
2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. If the kings and rulers didn’t know who they were coming up against or trying to break away from, they will really see and feel God’s wrath when He speaks out and addresses them with rebuke. He will vex them meaning confound with rage and fury and terrify them. I hope that was descriptive enough for you not to get on God’s bad side!

- His wrath will come and they will hear Him speak!

2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. God has the Perfect King to set in Zion. It does not matter what the earthly kings and rulers think or come against. He shuts them up with His plan that is already in play, for He speaks, “Yet I have set My king upon My holy hill of Zion (Jerusalem). It’s not like it’s going to happen. God speaks that it is so. He knows the ending at the beginning. It’s going to happen!

III. SCENE 3: RIGHTEOUSNESS ON EARTH PSALM 2:7-9

2:7 I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Since God already knows it, He says I’m gonna let you in on something — I will declare the decree: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. This leaves absolutely no doubt at all that this is speaking of the Lord Jesus. Just as the voice came from the heavens at Jesus’ baptism, Matthew 3:17 saying “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” We can, also, look at the voice from the heavens at the transfiguration. Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Also look at Acts 13:33. It is prophesied/spoken of in the Old Testament and fulfilled so many times in the New Testament!

- He is in charge to declare the decree!

2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. After decreeing and declaring the Son, God shows the Son that all He has to do is ask of Me what you will. He is willing — I shall give the heathen (nations) as an inheritance to you (the Son) and the uttermost parts (remote places) of the earth your (the Son’s) possession. This is how the nations of the earth will find blessings for themselves in Him.

- Ask of me!

2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. This will mean that He will break them (kings and rulers) with a rod (scepter) of iron, smashing them like clay pots. The Potter has power to destroy His creation if it is not pleasing unto Him.

IV. EPILOGUE: THE MESSAGE OF THE PSALM PSALM 2:10-12

2:10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. The kings and judges of this world are subject to Almighty God. They may rule over the little people on the earth, but God is higher than they are. The earthly kings are subject to the King of kings. They receive God’s wise instruction! The earthly kings and judges are wisely instructed!

- Be wise to follow instruction!
2:11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. They are reprimanded and warned to become servants of the Lord, and that means to serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. All those that know the Lord, do all of the above in service to Him. We fear (reverence) Him, we rejoice and tremble in His presence.

- Serve the Lord!

2:12 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. This last scripture says Kiss the Son, meaning to pay homage, honor, embrace, depend entirely upon the authority of God’s Son, and do not be ashamed lest he be angry, and ye perish... To get to God you must come through the Son! Those who resist will cause His anger to spark and will perish. The warning is when his wrath is kindled but a little, it only takes a spark. Is the Son in your life today? So, to be ready for His coming, we must submit to His leadership each day. Blessed (happy) are all they that put their trust (seek refuge) in him.

- Put your trust in the Son!

SUMMARY:

The psalmist asks two questions: 1.) Why do the nations rage? And 2.) Why do the people plot a vain thing? (2:1). The kings and the rulers are taking a stand, rising up, and revolting. They are taking counsel and plotting together against the Lord and His Anointed One! (2:2). When people are not subject to God, they have no morals, and the whole society turns to evil. The solution the kings and rulers thought of, was to break away, and throw off the control (restraints) of the Lord and His Anointed One (2:3). (2:1-3).

God’s response as He sits in the heavens is to laugh at their threats and He will mock and ridicule them (2:4). The Lord shall speak to them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure (2:5). Yet He has set His King upon His holy hill of Zion (2:6). (2:4-6).

He even declares the decree: “Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” (2:7). All the Son has to do is ask of Him what He will, and God is willing to give the heathen (nations) as an inheritance to the Son, and the uttermost parts (remote places) of the earth as His possession (2:8). He will break, meaning rule them with a rod (scepter) of iron, smashing them like clay pots. The Potter has power to destroy His creation if it is not pleasing unto Him (2:9). (2:7-9).

The kings and judges of this world are subject to Almighty God, and must be wise in instruction (2:10). They are reprimanded and warned to become servants of the Lord, and that means to serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling (2:11). This last scripture says Kiss the Son, meaning to pay homage, embrace, depend entirely upon His authority, and do not be ashamed lest He be angry, and ye perish... Those who resist will cause His anger to spark and will perish. The warning is when his wrath is kindled but a little, it only takes a spark. So, to be ready for His coming, we must submit to His leadership each day. Blessed (happy) are all they that put their trust (seek refuge) in him (2:12). (2:10-12).