

When the Nations Rage Part 1

Psalm 2 and Acts 4

Thesis: The spirit of this world is changing for the worse (to be more hateful, fearful, angry, divisive, judgmental, ungrateful, etc.). But you and I are of a different Spirit. We follow a different way, the way of Jesus. We get to practice learning how to show up differently now, because the rage of the nations will increase as time goes along.

Text: Psalm 2; Acts 3 – 4.

Note: Celebrate the Lord's Supper today.

Introduction:

The spirit of this world is changing for the worse. It is becoming more hateful, fearful, angry, divisive, judgmental, ungrateful, etc.

But you and I are of a different Spirit. We follow a different way, the way of Jesus.

We get to practice learning how to show up differently now, because the rage of the nations will increase as time goes along.

What do we do when the nations are raging and the earth is shaking?

The Lord has been speaking to me from Psalm 2 and Acts 3 – 4 during the past months. I want to share some of my thoughts and reflections in a 2-part message starting today.

When the Nations Rage Part 1: Psalm 2 (ESV).

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 the LORD 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: The LORD 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 the LORD 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 (Psalm 2:1-12 ESV).

Let's look together at this Psalm and to listen to what the Lord is saying to us.

Psalm 2:1 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 the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

- **This is our context.** Nations, leaders, and peoples are raging. And, they are plotting. But note: they are plotting in vain.
- Here is their plan: "Let us break God's bonds off us." They are talking about the Word of God. They are talking about the declarations, the commands, the standards, and the ways of God.
- "Let's break them off us and let's not be in bondage to God anymore. Let us cast God's cords away from us."
- God's Word to them was like bondage and cords that enslave them.

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."

- The Father is not fretting. Our God sits and reigns from on high (2:4).
- We need to see the One Whom the Father has installed as King, Ruler, and Judge over all the earth and all nations (2:6).

7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD 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."

- **Witness:** Tell about the decree and revelation of the Lord regarding Jesus. The Father declares that Jesus is the Son of God (2:7).
 - It is our privilege and calling, in the midst of the rage of the nations, to share what we have seen, heard, and experienced of the Lord Jesus.
- **Intercede:** The Father tells Jesus to pray, to "ask of me and I will give you the nations." In the midst of the rage and devolution of the nations, we get to pray, to stand in the gap, and to ask for Jesus to receive the fruit of his suffering (2:8).

- We pray because Jesus has the power and wisdom to reign righteously.
- We want to pray for mercy and repentance, because a time of reckoning and breaking will come (2:9).

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD 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 (Psalm 2:1-12 ESV).

- **Pray for the revelation of the fear (awe) of the Lord and humility** (response of trembling, respect, and honoring God to acknowledge the Son, Jesus Christ) **to come upon leaders and people** (*serve the Lord with fear*) (2:11).
- **Pray** that they would serve and submit to the Lord out of respect and revelation, because he is God (*serve the Lord with fear*) (2:11).
- **Invite** people to find their joy in honoring and knowing Jesus for who he is (*rejoice with trembling*) (2:11).
- **Invite** people into a relationship with Jesus and to partner with Jesus on his mission in the earth (*kiss the Son*) (2:12). It's all about pursuing intimacy with Jesus.
- **Declare and model** the blessing of finding our refuge and home in Jesus (*blessed are all who take refuge in him*) (2:12).
 - Find your refuge and help in Christ.
 - Don't run from the Lord in shame or weakness; rather, run to God in your weakness and need.
 - Get help from others with where you are triggered, so that you can disempower unhealthy responses and begin to practice new ways of showing up.

Practice: My Interactive Gratitude (from Michael and Terri Sullivant):

1. Express gratitude from me to God for something good in my life or my day. Write it down in a simple way. *Dear God, I am thankful for...*
2. Imagine God's response to my gratitude and write it down. What might He be thinking, feeling, or saying back to me, especially about who I am to Him?
3. Consider sharing with a friend or two what you wrote down and what you experienced.

Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

1. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to express gratitude to the Lord.**
2. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to meet the Lord at his table.**
3. In the Scripture, we read about the Passover Meal which the Lord Jesus shared with his disciples. Jesus reinterprets it and gives us the Lord's Supper. **We encounter Jesus at his Communion Table to remember all that he has done for us, all that he is doing, and all that he will do.**
4. By celebrating the Lord's Supper, (1) we **remember** the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice, (2) we **proclaim his gospel**, and (3) **we prophesy his return** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
5. Pray and release us to come to the table as Joshua plays and sings.
 - a. Then, you are released to come to the table and to get the elements for the Lord's Supper.
 - b. You can return to your seat or spread out through the Prayer Room.
 - c. I will call us back together with closing instructions and prayer after we have observed the Lord's Supper.

Ministry Time: