

C. Wise worship and obedience

Examine your actions: Do I wisely respond to the announcement of the birth of King Jesus with worship?

*Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King
Angels, from the Realms of Glory (1825)*

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups
as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

Love the Gospel

- How can Psalm 2 both be about an Old Testament Davidic King and also about King Jesus?
- How do Psalm 2, Matthew 2, and Luke 1-2 reveal the heavenly reality of Jesus' rule as King?

Live the Gospel

- Why are you tempted to see King Jesus' rule as "bonds to burst" instead of "bands of love" (Hosea 11:3-4)? How can you remind yourself of the loving nature of King Jesus?
- How have you been blind to the heavenly reality of King Jesus' rule in 2020? How has Psalm 2 opened your eyes to this reality?
- What will it look like for you to worship King Jesus this Advent season?

Advance the Gospel

- How would you use Psalm 2 to lovingly warn someone who has not submitted to the rule of King Jesus yet?

Great Joy for All the People? Peter Stonecipher — December 13, 2020

Text: Psalm 2:1-12

Introduction: Great Joy for All the People?

Luke 2:10-11

For a false king, eager to maintain a status quo that very much meets his own needs at the expense of his subjects, this type of announcement doesn't bring joy, but panic

*King of kings, yet born of Mary; as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood...
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (5th c.)*

I. The Scheming of Kings (vv. 1-3)

A. The kings of the earth plot to burst God's bonds

Their plotting *will be* overturned, their scheming *will be* frustrated, their struggling *will be* in vain

"The senseless rejection of God's rule and ruler." – Derek Kidner

B. King Herod plots to burst God's bonds

Matthew 2:1-18

C. Bonds of slavery, or bonds of love?

Examine your heart: Do you view Jesus' rightful authority over your life as oppressive? Or loving?

Hosea 11:3-4

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing...*

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come (1719)

II. God's Anointed King (vv. 4-9)

A. A barely visible reality for King David

In Psalm 2, God laughs at the futile rebellion of the kings of the earth, but these kings may well have laughed at the claims King David is making in Psalm 2

2 Samuel 7:8, 9, 16

B. A barely visible reality for King Jesus

Luke 1:30-33

C. A future reality for a Coming King

Matthew 3:17; Acts 13:32-33; Revelation 19:15-16

D. A barely visible reality we can believe in?

Examine your thinking: Do you realize that there is a heavenly reality about who is really in charge, which you must reckon with?

"[The psalmist] encouraged himself by strong confidence in God against the whole world." – John Calvin

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring...*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (1744)

III. Wise Advice for Kings (vv. 10-12)

A. Wise advice for kings

Be wise – be warned – serve the Lord – rejoice with trembling – kiss the Son

"Kiss refers to the solemn token or sign of honour which subjects were wont to yield to their sovereigns." – John Calvin

B. Wise advice heeded by Wise Men

Wise men who recognized that the birth of King Jesus was not a call to arms in rebellion, but a call humbly to lay down arms in service and loyalty...a call to worship and obedience

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11