

Finding Yourself in the Psalms
Psalm 2
A Psalm To Remind Us That God is in Control

“If a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there to hear it, does it make any noise?”
“If a preacher says he’s preached through all 150 Psalms, but cannot find the notes for 18 of them, did he actually preach those 18 Psalms?”

PSALM 2 - A Psalm To Remind Us That God is in Control

TIMES of LONDON

Israel Knohl, a biblical studies professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, argued yesterday that line 80 of the text revealed Gabriel telling an historic Jewish rebel named Simon, who was killed by the Romans four years before the birth of Christ: "In three days you shall live, I, Gabriel, command you."

Professor Knohl contends that the tablet proves that messianic followers possessed the paradigm of their leader rising from the grave before Jesus was born. He said that the text "could be the missing link between Judaism and Christianity in so far as it roots the Christian belief in the resurrection of the Messiah in Jewish tradition".

Professor Knohl defended his theory at a conference at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem marking 60 years since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He said that New Testament writers could have adapted a widely held messianic story in Judaism to Jesus and his followers. "Resurrection after three days becomes a motif developed before Jesus, which runs contrary to nearly all scholarship. What happens in the New Testament was adopted by Jesus and his followers based on an earlier messiah story."

Professor Knohl said he was aware that the tablet could upset Christians. For some the stone confirms Christianity's roots in Jewish tradition while others feel that the tablet discredits the Resurrection as a mere reproduction of an ancient fable.

- The WORD of God has been challenged before!
- 16 Messianic Psalms (2, 16, **22**, 45, 110, **118**, 72)
- Importance of MESSIAH throughout all of the Psalms.
- The theme of the **1st psalm after the introduction is the MESSIAH!**

I. The Message of Psalm 2

A. KINGS Rebel against God’s Rule. 2:1-3

1. The REBELS: NATIONS and KINGS - the PEOPLE and their PRINCES

2. The TARGET: God and HIS PEOPLE
3. Today's economic and political crisis are SPIRITUAL
 - a. RECENT WORLD CRISIS:
 - (1) 1960's OVER POPULATION
 - (2) 1970's POLLUTION
 - (3) ICE AGE
 - (4) 1980's OZONE
 - (5) 1990's ALIENS
 - (6) ASTEROIDS
 - (7) 2000 Oil Crisis
 - (8) Bird flu
 - (9) Global warming: We need a GLOBAL LEADER
 - b. President: 29% approval
 - c. Congress: 9% approval
 - d. We need a MESSIAH to deliver us!!!!

B. The FATHER REBUKES every challenge to His authority. 2:4-6a

1. The GREATEST are dead
2. They leave behind a legacy, but they are gone
3. Their continued effort for control

C. The SON RECEIVES Authority from the Father. 2:6b-7

1. Who is the "I" in 6b?
2. It is JESUS
3. JESUS is speaking here. **He WILL receive His Kingdom!**
4. (Hebrews 1:5) *"For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?"*
5. (Hebrews 5:5) *"So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.""*
6. (Psalm 110:1) *"Of David. A psalm. The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.""* **WITH**
7. (Hebrews 10:13) *"Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool,"*
8. (Acts 13:33-34) *"he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: "I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.""*

D. The FATHER REINFORCES the RULE of His Beloved Son. 2:7b-9

1. The SUBJECTS: Nations
2. The SPHERE: Ends of the Earth

3. The STRENGTH: a ROD of Iron
 - a. (Revelation 2:27) "*He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'— just as I have received authority from my Father.*"
 - b. (Revelation 19:15) "*Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.*"

4. These comprise **three proofs** for a LITERAL PHYSICAL Kingdom
 - a. Walvoord. 3 Characteristics of Divine Government in the Millennium (The Millennial Kingdom, 301)
 - (1) It will be a rule over the entire earth
 - (2) The government of Messiah will be absolute in its authority
 - (3) The government of Christ in the millennium will be that of righteousness and justice.
 - b. Additional Scriptures
 - (1) Daniel 2:36-45. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome.
2:44. The coming Messiah will destroy the nations, not co-exist!
 - (2) Zech 12:10 FIRST Coming
 - (3) Zech 14:3 SECOND COMING
 - (4) Zech 14:9, 20

 - (5) ISA 53: first Coming
 - (6) ISA 56:1-8, Second Coming
 - (7) ISA 60-65 KINGDOM
 - (8) Rev 20:1-9
 - (a) (1,000 years mentioned 4x)
 - (b) When a number is mentioned in combination with a physical thing, it is literal, not symbolic (a thousand men, a thousand feet, etc)

E. The INVITATION to receive Salvation. 2:9-12

II. Application for Today

- A. Prophecy is PRACTICAL
- B. Prophecy is CHRISTOLOGICAL (Rev 19:10) "*At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"*
- C. Prophecy is ENCOURAGING! (1 Thessalonians 4:18) "*Therefore encourage each other with these words.*"