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# THE FIRST WORLD WAR

## PSALM 2



Do you ever feel frightened at the violent and virulent opposition to Christ and to Christians that surrounds and threatens us today? I do. But I'm more scared for my children than for myself. If it's like this now, what it be like for them in ten years or twenty years time? When these fears froth and bubble in my heart, I often turn to Psalm 2 and find there the calming confidence of Christ.

### LEARNING

#### THE LORD HAS MULTIPLE ENEMIES (1-3)

How many enemies does the Lord have? The nations rage against him (1a). The peoples plot against him (1b). The kings stand against him (2a). The rulers conspire against him (2b). The Lord has many different enemies, but they all have one aim—to destroy his Lordship. They unite together **against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us"** (2-3).

CHRIST HAS MULTIPLE VARIED ENEMIES,  
BUT THEY ALL HAVE ONE UNITED AIM.

Now I'm more scared than ever. I thought we came to Psalm 2 for calm confidence?

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## THE LORD WILL DEFEAT HIS ENEMIES (4-9)

How does the Lord defend himself from this? He sits in heaven scoffing at his enemies' weakness pointing to his Son and strong King that they cannot move or remove (4-6).

When I was a little boy, I would wrestle with my Dad. I could hit him as hard as I wanted and he would just laugh. It got me madder and madder. Eventually I would attack him with all my might, he would put his big hand on my little head and hold me at arms length laughing at the futile ferocity of my flailing arms coming nowhere near him. That's how to picture this verse. **He who sits in heaven laughs, the Lord holds them in derision** (4).

How can we be so sure of Christ's total victory? Because God has decreed and promised his Son, **"I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession"** (7-8). Their doom is therefore sure. Christ shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel (9).

IF WE LAUGH LONG AT GOD,  
GOD WILL LAUGH LAST AT US.

So, what do we do in the meantime?

## THE LORD OFFERS PEACE TO HIS ENEMIES (4-9)

The Lord will defeat his enemies. In the meantime, despite their violent opposition and their ultimate defeat, God still offers peace to his enemies. In the closing words of this Psalm, he calls to his enemies: Be wise citizens (10), reverent servants (11), loving sons (12a), and happy refuge-takers (12c).

CHRIST OFFERS PEACE TO  
THOSE WHO OFFER WAR.

LOVING

The New Testament tells us that this Psalm is a direct and clear prophecy of Jesus Christ, whose very name is Jesus Anointed (Mat. 3:17; 17:5; Acts 4:25-27; 13:33; Rom. 1:14; Heb. 1:5; 5:5). We therefore use it to kindle love and worship for him. Jesus is the Lord's Anointed (2), King (6), Son (7), Judge (8-9), and Savior (10-12). As we turn from our enemies to Christ, we find our frothing fears replaced by his calm confidence.

LIVING

In the face of hostility and persecution, find calm confidence in Christ and continue to offer Christ's peace to even his worst enemies.

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