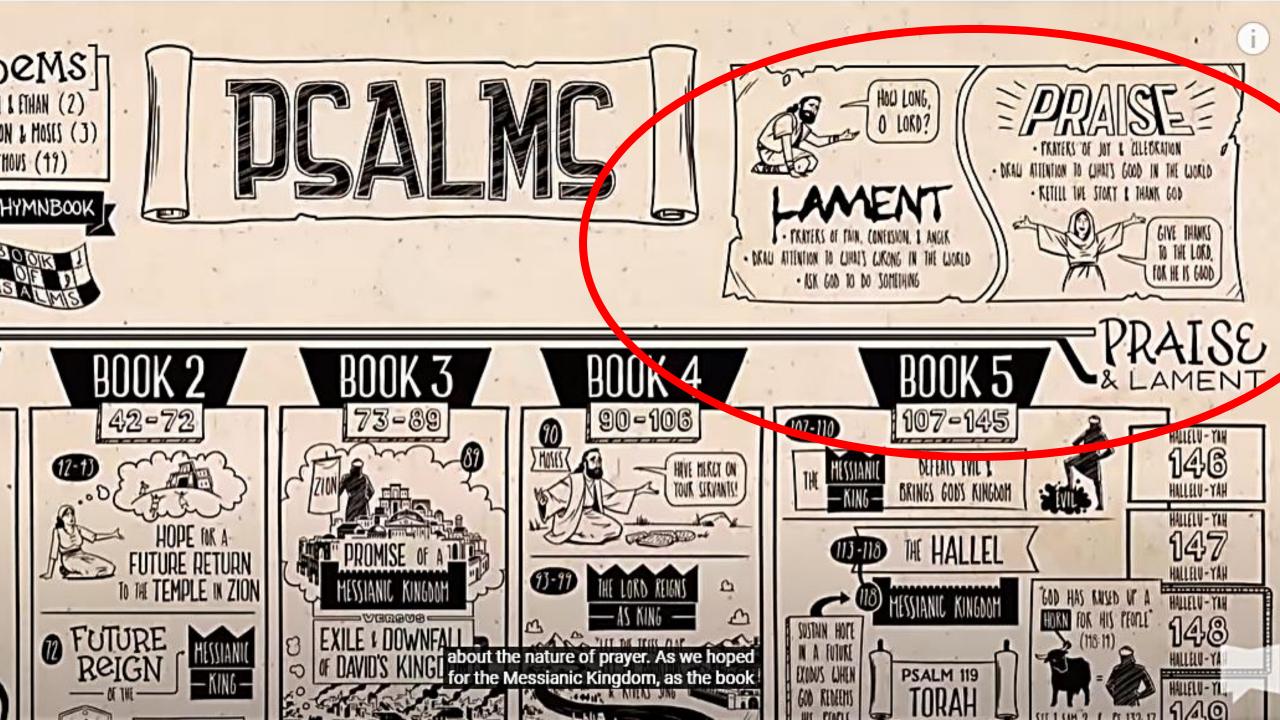
Study on Psalms



Author and Date

Individual psalms come from diverse periods of Israel's history, but at every stage they served as the songbook of God's people.

<u>**David wrote about half of the Psalms.</u>** His role as king was more than that of a ruler. He was to represent and even embody the people, and their well-being was tied to his faithfulness.</u>

David, then, writes as a representative, and the *readers must discern whether the* <u>*emphasis of a psalm is more on his role*</u> *as ruler or more on his role as ideal Israelite, in which he is an example for all*.

The historical occasions mentioned in the psalm titles help the reader see how faith applies to *real-life situations*.

Key Themes:

The Psalter is fundamentally the hymnbook of God's people. It takes the **basic themes of OT theology** and turns them into song:

Monotheism. <u>The one God</u>, Maker and Ruler of all, will vindicate his goodness and justice in his own time. Everyone must know and love this God, whose purity, power, wisdom, faithfulness, and unceasing love are breathtakingly beautiful.

Creation and fall. Though God made man with dignity and purpose, all people since the fall are beset with **sins and weaknesses** that only God's grace can heal.

Election and covenant. The one true God chose a people for himself and bound himself to them by his covenant. This covenant expressed **God's intention to save** his people, and through them to bring light to the world.

https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-the-psalms/

Key Themes:

Covenant membership. In His covenant, **God offers grace** to his people: forgiveness of their sins, the shaping of their lives to reflect his own glory, and a part to play as light to the Gentiles. Each member of God's people is responsible to believe God's promises and to grow in obeying his commands. Those who do this enjoy the full benefits of God's love and find delight in knowing him. The wellbeing of God's people as a whole affects the well-being of each member. Each one shares the joys and sorrows of the others. When believers suffer, they should not seek revenge but should pray. They can be confident that God will make all things right in his own time.

Eschatology. The story of God's people is headed toward a **glorious future**, in which all kinds of people will come to know the Lord. The personal faithfulness of God's people contributes to his ultimate purpose. The Messiah, the ultimate heir of David, will lead his people in the great task of bringing light to the Gentiles.

Types of Psalms:

- The Psalms can be identified according to some basic categories:
- Laments, which lay a troubled situation before the Lord, asking him for help.
- There are community (<u>Psalm 12</u>) and individual (<u>Psalm 13</u>) laments. This category is the largest by far, including up to a third of all Psalms.
- *Hymns of praise*, which call God's people to admire his great attributes and deeds. Examples include <u>Psalms 8; 93; and 145</u>.
- Hymns of thanksgiving. As with laments, there are community (Psalm 9) and
- individual (<u>Psalm 30</u>) thanksgiving psalms.
- Hymns celebrating God's law (Psalm 119).
- Wisdom psalms (Psalms 1; 37), which reflect themes from the Wisdom Books
- (Job, <u>Proverbs</u>, <u>Ecclesiastes</u>, <u>Song of Solomon</u>).
- **Songs of confidence**, which enable worshipers to deepen their trust in God amid difficult circumstances (<u>Psalm 23</u>).

https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-the-psalms/

Types of Psalms:

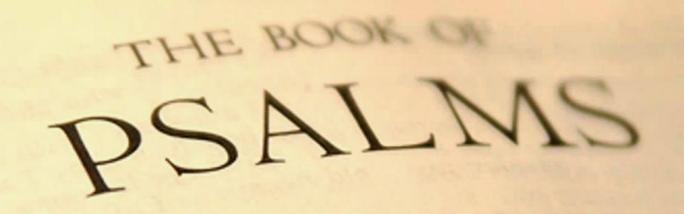
Royal psalms, which present the Davidic monarchy as the vehicle of blessing for God's people. Some of these are prayers (<u>Psalm 20</u>), some are thanksgivings (<u>Psalm 21</u>). All relate to the Messiah, the ultimate heir of David, either by setting a pattern (<u>Psalms 20–21</u>) or by portraying the king's reign in such a way that only the Messiah can completely fulfill it (<u>Psalms 2; 72</u>), or by focusing on the future (<u>Psalm 110</u>).

Historical psalms, which take lessons from the history of God's dealings with his people (<u>Psalm 78</u>).

Prophetic hymns, which echo the Prophets, calling people to covenant faithfulness (<u>Psalm 81</u>).

https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-the-psalms/

Structure:		https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-the-psalms/
		Psalms 1-2 provide an introduction to the Psalms as a whole. Except for Psalms 10 and 33, the remaining
Book 1	PS 1-	psalms of Book 1 are psalms of David. Most of them are prayers of distress. Others are statements of confidence
BOOK I		in the God who alone can save (e.g., 9; 11; 16; 18), striking the note that concludes the book (<u>40–41</u>). Reflections on ethics and worship are found in <u>Psalms 1; 14–15; 19; 24; and 26</u> .
Book 2	Ps 42-	Book 2 introduces the first group of psalms by the "sons of Korah" (<u>42; 44–49; 50</u>). There are also more psalms of
		David (<u>51–65; 68–69</u>), including most of the "historical" psalms (<u>51–52; 54; 56–57; 59–60; 63</u>). Once again, lament
	7)	and distress dominate these prayers, which now also include a communal voice (e.g., 44; compare 67; 68). The
		lone psalm attributed to Solomon concludes Book 2 with a look at God's ideal for Israel's kings—ultimately pointing to Christ as the final great King of God's people.
Book 3		The tone darkens further in Book 3. The opening <u>Psalm 73</u> starkly questions the justice of God before seeing light in
	Ps 73-	God's presence. That light has almost escaped the psalmist in <u>Psalm 88</u> , the bleakest of all psalms. Book 2 ended with the
BOOK 3	89	high point of royal aspirations; Book 3 concludes in <u>Psalm 89</u> with these expectations badly threatened. Sharp rays of hope occasionally pierce the darkness (e.g., 75; 85; 87). The brief third book contains most of the psalms of Asaph (<u>73–</u>
		83), as well as another set of Korah psalms (84–85; 87–88).
		<u>Psalm 90</u> opens the fourth book of the psalms. It may be seen as the first response to the problems raised by Book 3. <u>Psalm</u>
Book 4	Ps 90-	90, attributed to Moses, reminds the worshiper that God was active on Israel's behalf long before David. This theme is
		taken up in <u>Psalms 103–106</u> , which summarize God's dealings with his people before any kings reigned. In between there is
	106	a group of psalms (<u>93–100</u>) characterized by the refrain "The LORD reigns." <mark>This truth refutes the doubts</mark>
		<u>of Psalm 89</u> .
Book 5		The structure of Book 5 reflects the closing petition of Book 4 in <u>106:47</u> . It declares that God does answer prayer
	Ps 107-	(<u>107</u>) and concludes with five Hallelujah psalms (<u>146–150</u>). In between there are several psalms affirming the validity
		of the promises to David (<u>110; 132; 144</u>), two collections of Davidic psalms (<u>108–110; 138–145</u>); the longest psalm,
		celebrating the value of God's law (<u>119</u>); and 15 psalms of ascent for use by pilgrims to Jerusalem (<u>120–134</u>).



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12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry from the way, when his wrath is kind telessed are all they that put their tru the transfer he control of the instruments

The security of God's t they how are they incre HIGHLY That rise une that rise u a man be which se

Develop

- a consistent reading habit.
- a system of reading habit. Ie OIA
- a Theo-centric view of scripture.
- a prayer habit (COVID-19)

• Expectation:

- Read and Engage/Participate
- Active reading vs Passive reading
- Mark and reflect and journal

 Understanding 	PROSE	POETRY
PsalmsDifferent	Doesn't pay attention to rhyme or rhythm.	Pays attention to rhyme and rhythm.
poetry styleSong and not	No word limit.	Use limited number of words.
 Song and not mere didactic text Need to catch 	Ideas are written in sentences; sentences are grouped into paragraphs.	Ideas are written in lines; lines are grouped into stanzes.
the mood and	Natural and Grammatical.	Figurative and rhythmical.
feeling	Can be understood by reading.	More reading maybe needed to understand the meaning.

Understanding Psalms

 Different poetry style

 Song and not mere didactic text

 Need to catch the mood and feeling

PROSE	POETRY	Hebrew Poetry
Doesn't pay attention to rhyme or rhythm.	Pays attention to rhyme and rhythm.	Focus on IDEAS. Not rhyme and
No word limit.	Use limited number of words.	rhythm.
Ideas are written in sentences; sentences are grouped into paragraphs.	Ideas are written in lines; lines are grouped into stanzes.	Ideas are communicated
Natural and Grammatical.	Figurative and rhythmical.	differently.
Can be understood by reading.	More reading maybe needed to understand the meaning.	Pictorial in nature.

• Choice of Psalms:

- 100321 = Book 1 = Ps 1 & 2 = Opening Psalms
- 170321 = Book 1 = Ps 22, 23, 24 = Most Popular Psalm (23)
- 240321 = Book 2 = Ps 42 = Depressive Psalm
- 310321 = Book 3 = Ps 88 = Most Saddest Psalm
- 070421 = Book 4 = Ps 94, 104 = Pray & Praise Psalm
- 140421 = Book 5 = Ps 117, 119 = Shortest & Longest Psalms
- 210421 = Book 5 = Ps 136, 145, 150 = Most Happy Psalms

Parallelism in Hebrew Poetry

- Bible poetry's greatest technique is not to rhyme sounds, as in much English poetry, but to "rhyme" ideas -- that is, to put two or more lines together that somehow match each other ie the thought of the second line is parallel to the thought of the first line.
 - SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM
 - ANTITHETIC PARALLELISM
 - SYNTHETIC PARALLELISM

Synonymous Parallelism

• In this form of parallelism, the thought of the first line is repeated in different words in the next line(s).

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me (Ps. 3:1).



 Also see Genesis 4:23-24; Psalm 49:1; 103:3; Proverbs 11:7,25; 12:28.

Synonymous Parallelism

• Genesis 4:23-24;

-23 Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice,

You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech,

For I have killed a man for wounding me;

And a boy for striking me;

24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,

Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

CAN YOU SEE? X 2

Synonymous Parallelism

• Psalm 49:1;

Hear this, all peoples;

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

• 103:3;

Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

• Proverbs 11:7,25; 12:28.

Antithetic Parallelism

• In this case, the thought of the first line is sharply contrasted in the next line(s).

A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger (Prov. 15:1).



Also see Psalm 1:6; Proverbs 10:1; 15:2,4-9,13-15,18-22; 27:6.

Antithetic Parallelism

• Proverbs 10:1;

A wise son makes a father glad,

But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.

• 15:2,4-9,

The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly. • 15:4-9,

A soothing tongue is a tree of life,

But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

5 A fool rejects his father's discipline,

But he who regards reproof is sensible.

6 Great wealth is in the house of the righteous,

But trouble is in the income of the wicked.

7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge,

But the hearts of fools are not so.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,

But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,

But He loves one who pursues righteousness.

Antithetic Parallelism

Synthetic Parallelism

• The thought of the first line is added to or developed in the next line(s).

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, <u>Nor stands in the path of sinners,</u> <u>Nor sits in the seat of the scornful (Ps. 1:1).</u>

- Also see Psalm 1:2; 19:7-8; Proverbs 4:23; Isaiah 55:6-7.
- Also see the rest of Psalm 29.

Synthetic Parallelism

• Psalm 19:7-8;

The law of the Lord is perfect, <u>restoring the soul</u>; The testimony of the Lord is sure, <u>making wise the simple</u>. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, <u>rejoicing the heart</u>; The commandment of the Lord is pure, <u>enlightening the</u> <u>eyes</u>. • Proverbs 4:23;

Watch over your heart with <u>all diligence</u>, For from <u>it flow the springs of life</u>.

Synthetic Parallelism

- Isaiah 55:6-7.
- 6 Seek the Lord while He may be found;
- Call upon Him while <u>He is near</u>.
- 7 Let the wicked forsake his way
- And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
- And let him return to the Lord,
- And He will have compassion on him,
- And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Practice

Ps 1

- Psalm 1: ¹How **blessed** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the **wicked**, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
- ²But his delight is in the **law** of the LORD, And in His **law** he meditates day and night.
- ³He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers
- ⁴The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
- ⁵Therefore the **wicked** will not stand in the judgment, Nor Synonymous Parallelism sinners in the assembly of the **righteous**.
- ⁶For the LORD knows the **way** of the **righteous**, But the Antithetic Parallelism way of the wicked will perish.

Synthetic Parallelism

Synonymous Parallelism

Synthetic Parallelism



Theo-centric : God approves the way of the righteous!

Contrast of the godly and the ungodly. Key verse – v 6 Key word – ways

Interpretation - How to be approved by God?

- be separated from the ways of the world
- be saturated by the word of God

Application

- Word before Meals!

Reflection:

Do not be separated physically from the worldly people. Otherwise, we should be in the mountains.

Rather, this Psalm reminds us to be separated from the ways of the world. Their ways will only lead us to destruction before God.

To be approved by God, we need <u>to be saturated</u> by the Living Word. This would be proved by our fruitfulness and prosperity.

Reflection:

Saturated means more than mere cognitive knowledge. It means we are so full of the word that it flows out of our lives.

Such reality is proved by our fruit and fruitfulness.

Reflection:

My motivation to be saturated with the Word cannot be for self centred gain eg fruitful, prosperous, etc

Rather I should focus on pleasing Him who I love.

R Gree Rear Water

He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers.

R Gree Rear Water

He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers. Am I like a tree planted near the water?

What or Where is the water?

How fruitful have I been?

In what ways have I been prospering?

Types of Reflection leading towards application:

- 1. Mirror Where am I now?
- 2. Bino What is the big picture God is showing me?
- **3.** Micro What is the specific area I need to focus?
- 4. Cognitive What is something new He is showing me?
- **5.** Psycho-motor How to apply this?
- 6. Affective What belief system/value I need to change?

Types of Reflection leading towards application: Ps 1

- **1.** Mirror How is my Word life?
- 2. Bino How is my life pleasing God?
- 3. Micro Any path of sinner within me? Any wicked counsel? Any scoffing?
- 4. Cognitive What areas am I guilty too?
- 5. Psycho-motor How to meditate?
- 6. Affective What evident reveals that I value the approval of God > Man?

LET US ADORE

2 Why are the nations in an uproar? And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware." 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worship the Lord with reverence. And rejoice with trembling. 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, How many speakers, For His wrath may soon be kindled. "Actors", are here? How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

2 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The k Voices of the Apostate nations And the rulers take couriser together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He v Voice of the Almighty God And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King. Upon Zion, My holy mountain." 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, Ar Voice of the Anointed rth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware." 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worshin the Lord with reverence Ar Voice of the Author/Advice 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

2 Why are the nations in an uproar? This was quoted in NT. And the peoples devising a vain thing? vou know? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, Acts 4: 25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? 26 'The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together **Against the Lord and against His Christ.**

6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." 2 Why are the nations in an uproar?
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!"

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.
5 Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

THE APOSTATES (2:1–3): The earth's rulers plan to rebel against the Lord's anointed one.

THE ALMIGHTY (2:4-6): V4 Response V5-6 Rebuke 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, <u>'You are My Son, Today I have</u> begotten You. 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

This is repeated in: 2 Sam 7:14 Acts 13:33 Heb1:5, 5:5

<u>"You are My son"</u> = from the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:14), is appropriated here by the king to show his legitimate right to rule. "<u>Today"</u> then refers to the coronation day, and the expression <u>"I have</u> <u>begotten you"</u> refers not to physical birth but is an extended metaphor describing his becoming God's "son." = Messianic Intent (CSL)

Ross, A. P. (1985). Psalms. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1, p. 792). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, <u>You are My Son, Today I have</u> <u>begotten You.</u> 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"

10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worship the Lord with reverence. And rejoice with trembling. 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! THE ANOINTED (2:7-9): V7 Affirm Sonship V8-9 Affirm Sovereign Reign

> THE ADVICE (2:10-12): V10 Warning V11 Worship V12 Wrath reminded

2 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King. Upon Zion, My holy mountain." 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware." 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worship the Lord with reverence And rejoice with trembling. 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD?

2 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand	8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your
Against the Lord and again	EIGNING KING! HP HIM hem with a rod of iron, em like earthenware.'"
3 "Let us tear their fetters apart	10 Now therefore, O kings, show
And cast away their cords from us!"	discernment;
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,	Take warning, O judges of the earth.
The Lord scoffs at them.	11 Worship the Lord with reverence
5 Then He will speak to them in His anger	And rejoice with trembling.
And terrify them in His fury, saying,	12 Do homage to the Son, that He not
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King.	become angry, and you perish in the way,
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."	For His wrath may soon be kindled.
7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:	How blessed are all who take refuge in Him
He said to Me, 'You are My Son,	
Today I have begotten You.	

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2 Why are the nations in an uproar
                                           8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the
Anc
    REFLECTIONS: JESUS IS THE REIGNING KING!
2 T
Anc
Aga There are and will always be noises around us.
sayi To mock or deny the reign and rule of God
3 '
    eg Covid 19 – where is your God?
Anc
4 H
The Don't doubt.
5 Tł
And territy them in His tury, saying,
                                           12 Do homage to the Son, that He not
                                           become angry, and you perish in the way,
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King.
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
                                           For His wrath may soon be kindled.
7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:
                                           How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!
He said to Me, 'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
```

8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the

Anc REFLECTIONS: JESUS IS THE REIGNING KING!

Anc Aga God is seated. He is in control.

- sayi He has anointed Jesus, His Son, as King.
- ^{3 "I} Jesus will return and assume His King-ship and Kingdom.
 And He is a consuming fire. A holy King.

The Lord scoffs at them.

- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King. Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
- 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

11 Worship the Lord with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.
12 Do homage to the Son, that He not
become angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

2 Why are the nations in an uproar	8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the				
Anc REFLECTIONS: JESUS IS THE REIGNING KING!					
2 Tr Anc					
Aga Hence, I must continue to worship Him.					
^{sayi} I must learn to bow down as His royal subject. 🥤					
^{3 "L} There is true safety in His presence – my refuge.					
4 H What kind of reflection is this?					
The Lord coatte at them 5 Tr BINO = Big Picture					
And terrify them in His fury, saying,	12 Do homage to the Son, that He not				
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King.	become angry, and you perish in the way,				
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."	For His wrath may soon be kindled.				
7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:	How blessed are all who take refuge in Him				
He said to Me, 'You are My Son,					
Today I have begotten You.					

LET US ADORE