



Sounds of Christmas (Part 1)
The Anointed One (Psalm 2)
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Today we are moving on to our christmas series called the *Sounds of Christmas*. We're wrapping up last week, the *Songs of David* series and moving into the sounds of Christmas. Of course, we know that the Psalms, in large part are songs, therefore sounds. So, we are keeping with that theme but moving into what are called *the messianic Psalms* as we move into the christmas season. The Messianic Psalms referring, of course, to Jesus. And the Psalms that reference him.

If you are new to church or new to the Bible, you should know that the Bible has the Old Testament and the New Testament, the main two divisions. The New Testament begins at the birth of Jesus and everything after. So, as we reference messianic psalms, we know that the Psalms are in the Old Testament and it might be a little confusing if you don't know. The Psalms are in the Old Testament so how are we hearing about Jesus who was born in scripture in the New Testament, back in the Psalms.

The messianic Psalms prophetically describe the life suffering and reign of Jesus, but how is that if we are in Psalms but Jesus shows up on the scene in the New Testament? You need to know that Jesus is all through the bible. Starting in Genesis and through Revelation and everywhere in between, Jesus is all through the bible.

Let me put this in context for Christmas, as we are celebrating Christmastime and many of us celebrate what we call *Advent* where you have a wreath and four candles around the outside with the white candles in the middle. And the four Sundays leading up to christmas, you light one of the candles and then on christmas day you light the center candle which represents Christ. The word *Advent* means waiting or expecting.

There are a couple ways that this waiting or expecting applies. Speaking of Old Testament and New Testament, Israel in the Old Testament, the Nation of Israel was waiting for the Christ. That's where we get the name Jesus Christ, because the word Christ means Messiah. That's where we get Messianic Psalms. The word messiah means Savior.

So, in the Old Testament, the nation of Israel was waiting for a savior. Jesus fulfilled over 400 prophecies about this Savior which is how we know that Jesus is the Savior. Including a prophecy, he gave himself, which was I'm going to be crucified, dead for three days, and I'm going to rise again. Then he ascends to be with his Father in Heaven and then he said, "I'm going to be back." He's going to return, and that's where we are now, celebrating Advent. and we know he is going to return. How do we know he is going to return? Because he said he's going to. The man that fulfilled over 400 prophecies, including saying, I'm going to be crucified, dead for three days and rise again. I think we can take him for his word. I'm confident that he's coming back.

So, the Messianic Psalms prophetically describe the life suffering and reign of Jesus. Something else the Messianic psalms do is they illustrate the eternal nature of Jesus. The eternal nature of Jesus... You say wait but Jesus was born in the first part of the New Testament, but it's important for us to understand that Jesus is eternal. The Christmas story describes his birth and his time here on earth as human, but in order to understand his eternal nature, we need to look at a different doctrine, something called the triune nature of God. The triune nature of God, meaning God is three in one. He is father, Son, Holy Spirit. Triune nature says that he is one essence but three persons. Not three humans, three persons. One essence, three persons. This is a hard doctrine to understand. If you have trouble conceptualizing that, fully understanding it, you're not alone. As a matter of fact, every human ever has trouble understanding that fully.

There are a lot of things that we have trouble fully understanding in this life, aren't there? Like, I don't understand how my wife Kari can't know which direction is North. And conversely, she can't understand how I can be looking for something I can't find and stare right at it and still not see it. A couple of weeks ago, our son, Mason, he is eight now. He was looking for his backpack. He came to me a little flustered, saying Dad, "I can't find my backpack." I said, "did you look in the car, did you look in your closet, did you look by your desk, yes, I looked everywhere, I can't find it. So, I opened the door to his closet and on the shelf, right there, about two feet from his face was his backpack. So, I thought, now I kind of understand what my wife deals with. And then I felt a little sense of pride because in that moment, I realized that my boy is becoming a man. They grow up so fast.

Let me try to help us understand this three in one nature of God. It is what's called unity with diversity, which seems to contradict, but it doesn't. In Marriage, two become one. We are one flesh when we are married, but still two persons. The church has unity diversity. Scripture says we are many members but have one body. Unity with diversity helps us to understand. Another way we can try to understand this triune nature of God is that we see that God interacts with creation and we interact with him in different ways because of this triune nature of God. For instance, in prayer, we pray to the Father in the name of the son, with help of the Holy Spirit. Think about creation. The Father spoke creation into existence for the Son with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus ascended after he was resurrected, he, Jesus, the Son, ascended to be with the father in heaven, sit at his right hand and left for us the Holy spirit. So, you see, that triune nature of God provides diversity in the way that we interact with him and the way he interacts with us.

Why does this matter? Why does it matter that we understand the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the triune nature of God. Because it helps us understand who Jesus is. And we read this passage a lot at this time of year – Isaiah 7: 14, which says, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. That word Immanuel means God with us. Who is Jesus? He is God. He is God with us.

Relationships require people, right? Relationships are between at least two people. And the triune nature of God giving us Immanuel, God with us, allows us to have a relationship with God. He doesn't sacrifice his deity; he doesn't sacrifice his God nature while coming to be one of us with whom we can have relationship.

So, now that we've laid the groundwork for who Jesus is, let's start to look at the Messianic Psalms. Today, we are going to look at Jesus as the anointed one. Most scholars believe that it was written by David. Not all the Psalms were written by David, and this one isn't perfectly clear, but we believe that it's written by David. It's organized interestingly into four sections, so four sections of three verses and that's how we are going to look at it today, almost playing out like a conversation. I put that conversation in my mind almost like a stage play that we've got these characters that are involved and the characters being of course, God, Father, Son and holy Spirit, three in one is present here in this play. We've got what are called the nations or the surrounding countries and the people. And we've got the Psalmist, we assume to be David, who is the author and narrates some

Keep that in mind as we look through this. Let's jump into this first section, which is the first three verses where we are getting the words of the Psalmist to begin with.

***Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?***

***² The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,***

***³ "Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.***

So, the first thing we address here is this issue of the anointed. Jesus is the anointed one, which is what we are talking about today. Again, Hebrew scripture, we must interpret it in context and the time it's written. So, what we see is that this anointed one is represented by David, the King of Israel, but fulfilled in "Christ. This word anointed means set apart and for a purpose. So, we remember from scripture that David was anointed by Samuel to be the King of Israel who was set apart for the purpose of being the king of Israel. And so, we know also that God begat Jesus for a purpose. What was that purpose? For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God begat Jesus with a purpose. He is anointed for a purpose. Also interesting in this passage, the very first line we hear the Psalmist say is Why do the nations conspire and the people plot in vain? It starts with a question. But to me, it's not really a question, it's more of a statement, like a rhetorical question. It sounds a lot like a statement that many of us have had to make, maybe many of us have heard this question or statement – "What were you thinking?" I know I've had to hear that a time or two, and usually the answer is "I was not." But it's more of a statement than a question.

The psalmist is asking a rhetorical question here. Why do nations rage and the people plot in vein? But often, we ask the literal question. Why are people doing this? Why is someone plotting against me? Why is someone plotting against my loved ones. Why is someone doing harm to me? Why is someone coming against me? So, we ask a literal question which really is a question, not a rhetorical question that we look for answers to.

I want to give you a simple one-word answer to any question that is why fill in the blank with the word bad bad? It's a simple one-word answer. Sin. We live in a world that is not exactly how God designed it. He designed it perfect – absence of sin. And when sin

entered, it broke everything. And sin is the answer to the question why is anything bad? Why does an abuser abuse? Why does a caretaker neglect? Why does a child contract a disease or an illness? Why does my loved one suffer from dementia and can't remember me anymore. Why do we need a thing like *One Day* to feed the world. Why does hunger exist? Fill in the blank any hard question and the answer is sin. Not direct punishment for an individual sin. In other words, someone suffering from evil against them is not punishment for their sin. The scripture says the rain falls on the righteous and the unrighteous. We are all subject to these consequences of the broken world, but rather sin is the answer to this broken world. It's why things are broken. It's why bad things happen.

So, why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? Same reason anything not good it's sin... one word.

Now, let's look specifically at Verse 2 and 3 in this passage ***The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,***

If you are reading in the NIV, your version says³ ***“Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.”***

These are nations that are saying this against the Lord and against his anointed. So, again, represented by David, fulfilled in Jesus. So, what are they saying? They are saying we don't want you to rule over us. The nations and the people are saying we don't want you to be the boss of us. We don't want you to rule over us.

As we read this and we think about this, and who God is, and his anointed, we can kind of scoff at the nations that are on the scene here, can't we? And if we put ourselves on the stage, we might come over to the psalmist and put our arm around him and kind of scoff with him, like what are they thinking? Let's think for a moment. Was there any time that we tried to break the chains or throw off the shackles of the Lord, saying, "I don't want you to rule over me in this area of my life, Lord." Is there any time that we say, "I think my way really could be better here. I know what scripture says, I know you tell me how to live and how I should respond in this situation. What's the right thing. but I think this other way seems right to me.

Look at Proverbs 14: 12 – ***There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*** This could apply to us in our relationships, how we do business, how we handle an offense for someone coming after us. It could apply to a lifestyle we are wanting to live, How we parent, how we treat our spouse. The applications are many in us maybe trying to break the chains and throw off the shackles of the way the Lord wants us to live, but we know he has our best interest in mind because our own way that seems right to us but, in the, end is to death.

So, we would be wise to ask the Lord just like Lane had us do before taking communion. Ask the Lord is there any unrepentant sin in my life. Is there anything, Lord, that you're calling me to repent from that I have not. A way that seems right but it's leading me right to death.

Let's look at section two, picking up in Verse 4. Now we've got the Psalmist who is kind of narrating something that's going on

⁴The One enthroned in heaven laughs... that would be God Laughs. He is also scoffing. He's laughing. Can you imagine the sound of the laugh of God. The loudest, ,most booming, spiteful, like earthshaking laugh that you can imagine. The Father laughing at the those who are plotting against him.

the Lord scoffs at them.

***⁵He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,***

***⁶"I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain."***

⁷I will proclaim the Lord's decree:

***He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have become your father***

Here's how I picture that. God is sitting down. He's laughing at those who are plotting against him, and then he leans forward, kind of furrows his brow, and he says, "As for me, I have set my king on Zion. Who is the anointed king? Jesus. What is a king? Technically speaking, a king is a chief authority over territory or a people. A king is not voted into place, but put into place, often times inherited by family lineage. And kings

have a domain. For example, David's domain was the nation of Israel, the people in the land of Israel. and dominion over them.

So, then, if Jesus is fulfilled as the anointed King, what is his dominion? What does he have dominion over? All the earth. Not only all the earth, but all the universe because he is God. He is God with us. He has dominion over all the people for all of time. So, in the same way we have a simple answer to the question why bad things is Sin. What does Jesus have dominion over? Everything. He has dominion over everything which means he has dominion over heaven, hell, over angels, over demons. Over your family, your enemies, your job, your school, your government. Yes, we do have a king. He is the king of kings. The name to which one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess.

We do have a King. He is Jesus. He has dominion over everything. He has dominion over all your relationships. He has dominion over even the second most powerful thing in the universe. God is the most powerful thing in the universe. The second most powerful thing in the universe, I believe, is death. He has dominion over even death. And it's a good thing because the wages of sin is death. And Jesus has dominion over death which is why Paul could write ***I'm sure that neither death nor life nor angels nor rulers nor things to come, no more powers, which would be nations and peoples. No height, nor death, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.*** How? In "Christ Jesus. He has dominion over everything.

So, we declare this time of year Jesus is the reason for the season. He is who we celebrate his birth. God with us Imanuel. But I want to caution us. Is there any season of our life that we are trying to exclude God from? Jesus is the reason for the season of christmas, but we understand Jesus is the reason for every season. And you can apply that to every area of your life. Maybe not a time frame season but every area of your life.

So, followers of Jesus, let us allow him to permeate every corner of our life – school, work, family, even our thoughts as we submit to him.

Now in section three, we are going to get the anointed here. This is Jesus' time to talk. I picture Jesus again maybe sitting and he decides he's going to stand up to listen to this declaration Jesus is making. He's telling of a decree. He's saying the things that the Father has said to him, starting in ***Verse 9: I will tell with of the decree, the Lord Said to me, You are my son. Today I have begotten you. Ask of me and I will make the nations your heritage and the ends of the earth your possession.***

Pause right there for just a moment because those of you that have read scripture and know scripture know that when Jesus was baptized and went to start his three-year ministry on earth, he went to the wilderness, and he was tempted by the enemy. Remember that? And what did the enemy do? He took him up high on a mountain and he said, "Look over all this. You bow to me and I will give this to you. Think about this. As the enemy was saying that to Jesus, what did he know his father had already told him? I will make the nations your heritage and the ends of the earth your possession.

So he could easily say to Satan this is not yours to give. Isn't that neat? Right here in the middle of the Psalm, again, you see Jesus all through the scriptures.

Verse 9 – this is Jesus quoting what the father is saying to him. ***You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potters vessel. You are not going to hear that in a modern-day Christmas carol.*** Now, if you only consider this time of year we think about christmas and peace on earth, good will to men that the angel declared to the shepherds. If you only consider Jesus, if you only consider the peace on earth part of Jesus, you need to keep reading. You need to read to the end and all throughout scripture again, Jesus is the same God yesterday, today and tomorrow. And if you only consider the peace on earth, keep reading.

You see, Verse 9 – break them with a rod of iron and dash them into pieces like a potter's vessel. This is referencing Revelation 19. This is yet to be fulfilled. Now, I'm going to mention this... I'm not going to get into it too much because we are going to cover this next week in The Coming King. We are going to talk about Jesus coming the first time different from Jesus coming the second time. But I want to give you a little taste of it.

Joel 3: 16 says ***the Lord will roar from Zion. This is when he returns, and thunder from Jerusalem. The earth and the heavens will tremble. So, when Jesus returns, it's not going to be a baby in a manger, its going to be like a lion he is coming to administer justice. All that evil that we get so upset about, he is going to administer justice for the evil in the world. he is a God of peace and a God of grace, but he is also a God of justice. He will be returning like a lion.***

I'm a self-proclaimed, rule-following, justice seeker. Rules are in place for a reason. If you break the rules, there should be consequences. The rest of you that didn't raise their hand, we know who you are.

But I want to confess to you one of my favorite kind of videos to watch online are those videos that are called instant Karma. First of all, we don't believe in Karma, we don't believe in an energy doling out reward or punishment for your good or bad behavior. We don't believe in Karma, but we do believe in justice. So, I'm going to call them Instant Justice videos where the bully or the road rage or the criminal It's instant justice. You can watch it happen like they do something and the get justice right away and it feels so good. And don't judge me right now because you know you have been passed by the reckless driver who a mile down the road is pulled over and that feels good.

A couple of years ago, we were in a zoo where there was this monkey cage that you could actually get pretty close to. There were signs all over telling us not to mess with the monkeys, keep your distance.

We are at this place and this grown man, who we will just say looked and acted like a fool. He walks up to this monkey cage, and he is taunting these monkeys, ignoring all the signs and instructions. He walks up and he's teasing them. This monkey that was right at the fence in a flash, reached out, grabbed this guy's prescription glasses and pulled them right into the cage with him. Then he finds a perch just out of arms reach of this guy and sits there and chews on the ear piece of his glasses while looking right at him. We're watching this and for the next ten minutes, we got to see an animal of a whole different kind. You talk about instant justice ... that felt so good in the justice depths of my soul to watch that.

Because we do love justice, don't we? We like consequences for bad things. But here's the problem, often times, we want to be the agent for God's justice. *I'm going to take care of this myself, Lord.* I'm going to pour out justice, either yours or mine, but it's going to happen. We take it upon ourselves.

Jesus is coming back to deliver justice for evil. And by the way, aren't you grateful that God is not a God of instant justice? Because every single one of us in here would be a world of hurt if it was for instant justice from God. Sin consequence.

God is patient, he desires that everyone should be saved, which is why he is patient and waiting to administer his justice.

Now, section 4 is the last section verses 10 – 12. This is the psalmist again. He says, **Now, therefore, O kings be wise, be warned O rulers of the earth.** So we are getting an exhortation or a call to action from the Psalmist here. He says, Serve the Lord with fear

and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry and you perish in the way for his wrath is quickly kindled.

*In other words, his wrath is flared up. He's that snarling lion ready to go. **But, blessed are all who take refuge in him.***

So, the last section we read about the wrath of God, in this section we are told that we should kiss the son. Kissing the son is a sign of affection, respect, submitting yourself to the Lord to his anointed King. Again, if you're new to church and you're wondering about this world full of evil and you hear about this Jesus, Peace on earth, good will to men and you're wondering where you can find this peace and you've been looking for it. It could be that you've been looking with man eyes. Yes, women can suffer from man eyes. Maybe it's been right in front of you because his name is Jesus. And all you need to do is subject to the son, submit to the son. Verses to believe, to believe that Jesus "Christ is the one and only begotten son of God, that he died for your sins and mine, that he rose again, and that he is coming again. And then to confess, I believe in "Christ and he is my lord.

Second then is to follow. There is always a next step. Because this scripture, this passage has said, blessed are all who take refuge in Him. And we need to understand you must follow Jesus to take refuge in him. We must follow him to be near to him. Draw near to him and he will draw near to you. You can take refuge in him.

So, church, here's your quiz. Why is there evil the world? sin. Who is God's anointed King? Jesus. What does Jesus have dominion over? Everything for all time. So, this christmas, as we celebrate the anointed King, not just him as an infant child, but the eternal God that he is. And these Messianic Psalms illustrate that he is all through the Bible.

Followers of Jesus may our lives be like the Bible, you can see Jesus all through it.

Father, we love you. we are grateful for this season, this advent as we declare Lord we wait for your return with grateful hearts for Christ, the one who saves. And we pray for those who have not placed faith in you, Lord that they would meet with a member of the prayer team, that they would ask questions, that they would pray and prayer to receive you and to seek refuge with you that they would kiss the son, submit to him, submit to your authority, Lord.

For those of us that have placed faith in Christ, Lord, that we would follow you, that we would constantly be seeking refuge in you by following you, Lord, that we would submit to your authority, knowing that your ways are better and that our ways may seem right but they can lead us to death. Help us to allow you to have your vengeance for evil, Lord, knowing that one day you will return like a roaring lion to devour the evil one and for that we are grateful. We love you and we give you praise. And it's in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen