



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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PSALM 2 AND YOU

God has called His people to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth. Jesus Christ came to make God's will known to us. Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (**Matthew 28:19-20**). God desires that we carry the gospel to every person on this planet.

This is our Father's will. It is our great commission from the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His command to the church, binding on every believer. Every person who confesses Christ as Savior and Lord is to labor to extend the gospel from his neighborhood to the nations.

A necessary part of carrying out this great commission is prayer. We must be diligent to pray for the spread of the gospel across the world. We must fervently pray for missionaries and their labors. We must pray for the nations and their need to come to Christ. If we are going to carry out this aspect of our Father's will, we must pray. If we are going to be obedient to Christ's command in **Matthew 28**, we must intercede.

Yet, I am burdened and convicted concerning the lack of concern in praying for the nations and for missionaries. I see this even among those committed to prayer. We must remember the words of Jesus, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**).

In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus does not make spreading the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth as optional. It is not an "either/or" command. He is not saying you can focus on your area or the nations, whichever you want to choose. It is a "both/and" command. We are to strive to bring our neighbors and the nations to Christ.

Psalm 2 offers some insight and motivation in praying for the spread of the gospel. This psalm calls believers to commit themselves to God's global purposes. This issue of The Prayer Closet will focus on **Psalm 2** and what it teaches us about being involved in God's global purpose. What lessons do we learn from **Psalm 2**?

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will rebel against Him. God is not shocked by their rebellion. He is not surprised by their rebellion. He is not thwarted or limited by the evil of men. The Romans and Jews rejected Jesus Christ. They tried to destroy Him. Yet, God accomplished His purpose of salvation. He

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will defeat His enemies and save all those who trust in Him through His Son (**Psalm 2:5**).

The same is true today. Man is in rebellion toward God. Sinful people maintain the same attitude of **Psalm 2:3**. However, God is the same also. He is not surprised by the rebellion of man. He is not limited by the evil of men.

This provides powerful motivation to pray for the gospel to conquer the nations. It should inspire confidence and courage to plead for the harvesting of the nations. It ought to fill you with boldness to pray for the peoples of the earth to turn to Christ.

Spiritual darkness covers much of the earth. Many people have not heard the gospel, not even the precious name of Jesus. There are nations that are closed to the gospel and missionaries. In many places, false religions are entrenched in the hearts and lives of people. Worldliness and materialism hold sway in the hearts of millions.

Staggering obstacles exist to the spread of the gospel across the world. Nevertheless, our God reigns! He is the sovereign King over all the earth. The darkness is deep, but God is greater. The rebellion of man is great, but God is greater. The obstacles are overwhelming, but God is greater.

Psalm 2:1-5 offers powerful motivation to pray and trust God for the harvesting of the nations. In spite of man's rebellion and sin's darkness, God moves forward in accomplishing His purpose. In addition, we have the unique, amazing privilege of joining Him in this by praying, giving, and going. He allows us to play a part in this as we pray.

Lesson 2:

God has appointed and anointed only one Savior, Jesus Christ (2:6-8).

Lesson 1:

God is not surprised or limited by man's rebellion (2:1-5).

This truth should encourage you. It should fuel your passion to pray for the spread of the gospel. The rebellion of man cannot stop the purpose of God. God guarantees that His gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth. God graciously uses us to accomplish His amazing purposes.

Psalm 2:1-3 picture man's rebellion against God and His King/Savior. Its immediate application was to Solomon. This is called a coronation psalm. It was written to declare that Solomon and Solomon alone was the true king of Israel. God chose Solomon. God anointed Solomon. God's purpose was to make Solomon king and to bless his reign. It was an announcement to all his enemies that God has placed Him on the throne and ruled with His authority.

The ultimate application of this psalm is Jesus Christ. We see this in Acts **4:25-28**, "Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ, For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together."

This psalm refers to the rejection of Jesus Christ by the Romans and the Jewish people. **Psalm 2:3** is a picture of man's attitude toward God and His Savior Jesus, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Just as the Romans and the Jews, sinful man will not acknowledge or surrender to Jesus Christ.

Yet, what is God's attitude in the midst of their rebellion? **Psalm 2:4** declares that God "laughs" at this rebellion. He is amazed that they

In **Psalm 2:6-7**, God declares that He has determined who would be king. God announces, "Yet have I set my king upon the holy hill of Zion" (**Psalm 2:6**). It's important to notice that phrase, "set my king." God had made a choice. He had decided on one and only one king. This king would represent Him.

He would carry out the will of God. God would bless and empower Him.

The initial fulfillment refers to Solomon. Many of David's sons attempted to seize the throne. Absalom and Adonijah disregarded God's will and tried to take over. Some of David's men like Joab and Abiathar conspired against David to make someone else other than Solomon king of Israel. Yet, God makes it clear – Solomon is king. Everyone must bow to him and serve him as God's appointed king.

The ultimate fulfillment of **Psalm 2** is Jesus Christ. He is God's King, the only appointed and anointed Savior. God has determined that Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only way of true salvation. People must surrender to Him. They must trust in Him and obey Him. There is salvation in no one else or nothing else.

This is God's ordained plan. It is fixed and unchanging. **Psalm 2:6** says that God has "set" Jesus as the only King and Savior. It has been settled. God sent Him to be the Savior and no one else, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (**John 3:16**).

He has anointed Jesus and Jesus alone to be the Savior. Jesus says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he (God the Father) hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (**Luke 4:18-19**). God has given the task and the power to act as Savior of sinners to Jesus and Jesus alone.

In order to prove this beyond doubt, God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The resurrection shows that Jesus is the only true Savior (**Psalm 2:7; Acts 13:33-39**). The resurrection is actually an announcement. It is

God's way of openly saying, "This is My Son. He is the only Savior. You must surrender to Him or perish."

This psalm teaches that God has made Jesus the only Lord and Savior. He appointed Him and anointed Him for the task. This goes against the grain of modern thinking. In our culture, people believe that there are many ways

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to God – that one can find God through many paths.

However, the Bible is clear and plain. There is only one Savior – Jesus Christ, the Son of God. You must believe Him and surrender to Him. There is no other way to God, no other path to God. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to God but through Him (**John 14:6**).

This truth should offer encouragement and motivation to pray intensely for the spread of the gospel. Since people need Jesus, they must hear about Him, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Romans 10:17**). People need to hear the truth about Christ in order to believe Him and come to know God (**Romans 10:14-15**).

A person who has not entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is lost and headed for an eternity in hell. It does not matter how religious or sincere the individual is. Without Jesus, a person cannot know God personally and experience His salvation. People must hear of Jesus and respond to Him in true faith if they are to enter into genuine salvation.

This should drive us to our knees. It should drive us to our knees first to examine our hearts. We must ask ourselves, "Have I truly trusted in Christ and Christ alone? Does all my hope for salvation rest in Him and Him alone?" We must take time to ask ourselves these kinds of questions. You cannot assume. You cannot take it for granted.

We must hear and act on the words of the apostle Paul, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). The word "reprobate" in this verse refers to someone without Jesus Christ, someone who does not have a personal relationship to Him. What's interesting is that Paul directs this

command at a church, at those who profess faith in Jesus Christ.

Examine yourself. What are you trusting in? Where is your hope? It's not about your sincerity, your works, or your religiosity. It's about Jesus Christ. Have you surrendered to Him? Have you trusted solely in Him? This is the difference between salvation and damnation, between eternal life and eternal misery. Ask the

Spirit of God to help you know with certainty and confidence.

This truth should also drive us to our knees to pray for others. Since Jesus is the only way of salvation, we must pray for others to come to know Him. God uses our prayers for those who need Jesus (**Romans 10:1**). We must strive in our prayers for others to come to know God through Christ, whether they live across the street or across the world.

Lesson 3: God has promised to give the nations to Jesus Christ (2:8-9).

In **2:8-9**, we see God's promise to his king. He would extend his reign over many peoples and lands. Again, the initial fulfillment to this promise was Solomon. Solomon reigned over the largest landmass of any king of Israel or Judah. He had authority over more peoples than any other king of Israel or Judah.

Yet, the ultimate fulfillment of this psalm is Jesus Christ. God has made Him the Savior and Lord. He will now give Him the nations as His own people. He promises to extend the reign of Jesus over the peoples of the earth.

God will do this first through the rod of the gospel (**2:9**). The rebellion of the nations will be broken through the preaching of the gospel. He will dash their hardness of hearts by His Word. They will surrender to Him, obeying Him and surrendering to Him. Because of His death and resurrection, God will reward Him with the salvation of people from all the peoples of the world.

Isaiah 53:10-12 tells us that Jesus will be rewarded with the salvation of countless peoples throughout time for His life, death, and resurrection. **Revelation 7:9-10** says that there will be people around his throne that no one can

number. These people will be "of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (**7:9**).

The other way that the nations will be brought to Him will be by the rod of His justice. This will happen at His second coming. Jesus Christ will return as the one and only King. He will rule over all. Everyone will bow to Him. In that glorious day, "every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should

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confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (**Philippians 2:10-11**).

God has promised the nations to Jesus as His inheritance. He will have it whether by His gospel or His justice. This is God's unchanging promise to His Son!

While there is time, we must pray that the nations will be broken by His gospel. We must plead that they will hear now and surrender now to Jesus. God has promised His Son to save people out of all the peoples of the earth. This should fuel and motivate our praying for the nations of the earth. When you pray for the nations of the world to come to Christ, you are praying in line with the Father's heart, will, and glory (**Romans 1:5**).

Lesson 4: God will release His wrath on the unrepentant (2:10-12).

In **Psalm 2:10-12**, the nations are given a warning. They must acknowledge Solomon or face the consequences. They must fully surrender to Solomon or else face the judgment of God. To "kiss the Son" meant to yield to Him and obey Him.

Again, while this first applied to Solomon, its ultimate application is Jesus Christ. Everyone is to acknowledge Christ and turn to Him, including kings and rulers (**2:10**). Everyone is to serve Christ with fear, rejoicing in Him and trembling before His holiness and majesty (**2:11**). Everyone must bow in repentance to Christ or face the judgment of God (**2:12**).

The text is clear – the person who does not repent and turn to Christ will face the wrath of God. There are no other options, no other alternatives. The Bible is stunningly plain -- Repent or face the wrath of God.

This truth of **Psalm 2** should teach us two things. First, we need to see our need to repent. We call on others to repent; have we ourselves repented? Are we guilty of telling the world to repent while we harbor sins that brings the wrath of God on the wicked (**Colossians 3:5-6**)? The message of this psalm is to repent. We must practice this in our personal life.

Second, we must see the danger that the nations are in. Because of their unbelief, they

are under the wrath of God (**John 3:18, 36**). The wrath of God abides on them in this present life. Yet, if they do not repent, they are headed to eternal damnation. They will experience the fullness of His wrath forever in hell. We can make a difference if we will pray! God has promised to rescue and deliver lost people if we will intercede. The condition of people in sin and the danger they face in this life and the life to come must drive us to our knees.

The Nations Of The World

I want to encourage you to make praying for the nations a part of your daily prayer life. For this reason, I've provided a list of the nations of the world. At the end of the list, I'm offering you a short prayer guide to help you. You might pray for a nation a day with this guide. You might pray for a continent with this guide. You might consider other Scriptures to pray. There are a variety of ways to do this; pray as you feel the Spirit of God leading you. Yet, the key is to put **Psalm 2** into practice – pray for the nations to see and know Jesus Christ! Take an active role in God's global purpose for the world! Take time each day to pray for the nations. Make it a daily part of your prayer routine.

AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- British Indian Ocean Territories
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde Islands
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cote d'Ivoire

- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho

- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Reunion
- Rwanda
- Soa Tome & Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- St. Helena
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zaire
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

ASIA

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei
- Cambodia
- China, People's Republic
- China, Taiwan
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- North Korea
- South Korea
- Laos
- Macao
- Malaysia

Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vietnam

CARRIBEAN

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Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
French Guiana
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Netherlands Antilles
Puerto Rico
St. Kittis and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos Islands
Virgin Islands of the USA

EURASIA

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Azerbaijan
Byelarus
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgystan
Moldova
Russia
Tajikstan
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan

EUROPE

Albania
Andorra
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia
Bulgaria
Channel Islands
Croatia

Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Faeroe Islands
Finland
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Holy See (Vatican)
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Isle of Man
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
San Marino
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Svalbard
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica

Ecuador
El Salvador
Falkland Islands
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru

Uruguay
Venezuela

MIDDLE EAST

Algeria
Bahrain
Egypt
Gaza Strip
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libya
Mauritania
Morocco
Oman
Palestine, West Bank
Qatar
Sahara
Saudi Arabia
Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

NORTH AMERICA

Canada
Greenland
St. Pierre & Miquelon
United States of America

PACIFIC

American Samoa
Australia
Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Island
Cook Islands
Fiji
French Polynesia
Guam

Johnston Island
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia, Federated States
Midway Islands
Nauru
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Niue Islands
Norfolk Island

Northern Mariana Island
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Pitcairn Islands
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tokelau Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Wallis and Futura Islands

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Father, I plead in the name of Jesus that Your Word will powerfully penetrate and conquer the hearts of _____. Cause Your Word _____ to be proclaimed in _____ with power and clarity (**2 Timothy 3:16-4:2**).

Father, I pray that _____ would turn to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance. Bring them into a personal relationship to Yourself through the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12; John 3:16, 6:44**).

Father, I ask that You would break Satan's grip over _____. In the name of Jesus, I ask You to destroy the strongholds in the nations. Bind him and all the demons that are at work in _____. Destroy his works in _____. Turn the people of _____ from his lies and deception to the love and truth of Jesus (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**).

Father, I pray that every obstacle to the gospel in _____ would be removed. Destroy anything that stands in the way of the people hearing and receiving the good news of Jesus Christ and His salvation (**2 Thessalonians 3:1-3**).

Father, I pray that You would raise up missionaries with a heart for _____ . Place a burden on the hearts of believers to reach out to and win this nation for the Lord Jesus Christ. Equip them and send them into _____ so that they can reap a harvest for the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 9:35-37**).

Father, I ask You to strengthen the believers in _____. Give them the courage and the boldness to stand for You. Supply them with all that they need to live and stand for You. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on them. Draw them into a more intimate relationship with Yourself (**Acts 1-4**).

Father, I plead that _____ will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (**Habakkuk 2:14**).

TWO NEW PRAYER RINGS!!

At The Prayer Closet, we've developed two new prayer rings to help you grow in your praying:

Praying For My Husband

This prayer ring contains 31 Scripture prayers that you can use in interceding for your husband. It will help you in praying God's will for your husband, son-in-law, or future husband. This key ring is **\$2.00**.

Praying For Healing

This prayer ring offers you a variety of Scripture prayers to pray for physical healing. It will help you in seeking God for healing in your life or in the life of others. This key ring is **\$2.00**.

If you would like to receive these key rings, please contact us or send an email to prayer@prayerclosetministries.org with how many you would like. We will send the key rings with an invoice that you can return at your convenience.



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