“Allegiance to the King: The World’s Rebellion”

**Psalm 2**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 1/23/22)

 This world is populated by two kinds of people: those with allegiance to God, and those without it. This is not hyperbole. There is no middle ground. This separation goes a long way in explaining why there is a lack of peace between nations, and why there is a lack of peace within people. So where does your affection lie? To whom do you give your allegiance? (Q1) (Q2)

 Now read Psalm 2. This song from 3,000 years ago certainly describes today, doesn’t it? East or West, it seems that governments are at war with God, legislating the sin of distorted desires. Why? Sinful people reject God’s Word, and they reject His authority over all. God puts boundaries on man’s carnal desires and man doesn’t like it! Read Jer. 6:16. It’s as if man says, “You’re not the boss of me!” How often I watch the news and I shake my head as I quote Isa. 5:20-21. Now read Ps. 2:2 again. This psalm proclaims Jesus’ kingship and His rule. Read Acts 4:24-28. Even though Hebrews and Romans and Gentiles all conspired against Jesus, **God’s purpose was still accomplished!** (Q3) So don’t despair: God’s purposes are not in jeopardy. He knows exactly what He is doing.

 How does God respond to this rebellion? Read Ps. 2:4-6 again. These verses convey the futility of rebellion against God. God’s sovereign rule is neither diminished nor threatened by human rebellion. What’s more, all who refuse allegiance to the Lord’s Anointed are the objects of His wrath. (Q4)

 Ps. 2:6-7 tells of God’s decree. All humanity is separated by either loving or not loving this King. This King didn’t just say the rules, but in His humanity He came into the world, taking the form of a bond-servant, and humbling Himself all the way to death on a cross to exchange His life for our sins (Phil. 2:5-11). What’s more, He rose and shall reign as King FOREVERMORE! Jesus is God’s merciful answer to man’s sin problem (Acts 13:32-36).

 The church today is not waiting for Jesus to become King. He is right now the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He reigns right now! Nothing… NOTHING happens outside of His sovereign will. One day all rebellion against Jesus will be brought to an end. The Gospel is not just good news… it is urgent news. Rev. 19:14-16 powerfully describes the reign of our King. Christ brings the nations under His rule by the gospel. This gospel saves, but it also offends, cuts, and separates. (Q5) It is through the proclamation of Christ that the Kingdom grows. (Q6)

 Read Ps. 2:10-12. The only shelter from God’s anointed King is found in the King Himself. Don’t run from Him; run to Him. Surrender to Him. Reconciliation with God is found only in surrender to the King. He didn’t just die on the cross. He absorbed God’s wrath for us. He reconciled us to God Himself. To truly be saved by Christ is to be ruled by Christ. “How blessed are all who put their trust in Him.” (Q7)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Take a few minutes to consider some of this week’s headlines. What specific examples do you see of vain plotting against God and His ways? How should Christians think and act toward this rebellion?
2. How does allegiance to God bring peace within? How does allegiance to God bring peace between people?
3. What was God’s purpose in letting His Son die on the cross?
4. Wait a minute! I heard that “God is love.” Where did this wrath come from?
5. How and why does the gospel offend, cut, and separate?
6. (personal) How will YOU proclaim Christ this week?
7. When Pastor Steve closed in prayer, he asked God to give us His perspective, to make us “Kingdom minded”. What would being “Kingdom minded” look like?

“The Solid Rock” (Mote)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

* + Refrain:
	On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
	All other ground is sinking sand,
	All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.