

Psalm 2:1-3

Sunday 10/22/2023

I. Review

Last week we basically covered the last aspect of understanding your walk with God. I spent a lot of time with this and went into a lot of detail because I want you to understand it when the Bible says that we walk by faith and not by sight. That's such an easy thing to say, but so many real personal, doctrinal impacting verses in the Bible just become a punch line or a talking point without anybody really understanding the depth of it.

We went back to Ezekiel Chapter 47, and I showed you again the inspirational application to the river of God flowing out of the temple and going literally to the world. I showed you how this man wading into the river was a picture of our spiritual growth, you and I getting grounded and growing into the Holy Spirit of God, and God filling us every day with the infilling spirit of God where the Bible says *be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)*.

I showed you the difference between the Indwelling and Infilling Holy Spirit of God:

- **Indwelling** Holy Spirit of God—takes place the day you get saved
- **Infilling** Holy Spirit of God—the daily filling for fellowship, walk, ministry and service

At salvation, you got all the Holy Spirit of God that there is; there's no question about that. In time, through your spiritual growth, the Holy Spirit of God now gets all of you, and that's really the key.

Just like our man in Ezekiel 47, I told you that we too need to measure our own spiritual growth. The guy had a line in his hand, and I went back to Isaiah 28 and showed you the line and how you measure your spiritual growth.

I showed you the amazing process of spiritual growth where the man begins to walk into the water.

1. **Ankles**—the beginning of your new life in Christ Jesus—just getting your feet wet
2. **Knees**—moving in a little farther—a place of your surrender—where you come to that point where you aren't going back to the world.
3. **Loins**—Still farther—Ephesians 6:14—*loins girt about with truth*—where you really begin to have the strength that God wants you to have.
4. **Waters to swim in**—feet off the ground—can't get to the other side of the great river. A picture of you and I being totally filled with the Holy Spirit of God to do the work that God has called us to do. You simply go with the flow—wherever the river (Holy Spirit of God) will take you.

The success of this church, or any church, will not be how many we have on Sunday or how big we'll grow (the mega church concept); but rather, investing in our people here, and then taking what we have here to those around the world who have nothing. We can't ever just sit here and be localized where we just get so consumed by ourselves and what we do here that we forget

there's a world out there that is lost and without Christ. Many of you are great witnesses at work; that's where it begins. You tell people about your faith, they see your changed life, and you have an opportunity to be a missionary where you work. But it doesn't stop there. It's this church using all the things we have at our disposal to really reach the world. **Who would have thought that 50 years ago a little church like this could literally reach around the world and touch people's lives with the gospel?** It's what God does.

Our message last week was on your walk with the Holy Spirit of God and your spiritual growth. I laid it out over the previous weeks around Seven Biblical Aspects found in Psalms 1:1-3 that I think are vital to us understanding it:

1. Our walk with God
2. What we delight ourselves in from God
3. The law of God and meditating in it
4. (When those 3 things are in place) We become that tree planted by the rivers of water
5. Our leaf not withering
6. Bearing fruit in your season
7. Flowing with the river of God (Ezekiel 47)—wherever you go you will prosper because God has His hand on your life

II. The Alternative to Psalm 1:1-3 in Psalm 1: 4-6

A) A contrast between the Godly man and the ungodly man.

Psalms 1:4-6. The ungodly [are] not so: but [are] like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

He said the unsaved man or woman is like chaff which is the worthless part of wheat. The stuff that blows off and the wind carries away is the chaff. That's what unsaved people are. They are carried away by the winds of this world and by the things of this world that really have no substance or no truth to them.

B) Four Characteristics of an Unsaved Man or Woman

1. They're without hope; they don't have any hope at all.
2. They're without strength to overcome anything in this world that they're up against.
3. They're without God; they have no God in their life.
4. They're without excuse.

And these four areas really sum up what an unsaved person's life is all about.

- You take the life of a saved man or woman. It's endless hope.
- You take the life of an unsaved man or woman. It's a hopeless end.

III. Psalm 2: 1-3

A.) We are Children of the Day

Today I want to move into Psalms Chapter 2. Now I want my people to be informed; I think it's very important. A few Thursdays ago, somebody asked the question out of I Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 1-9, and we talked about the fact that the Bible says that we are children of light. We're not children of the dark. We're children of the day; we're not children of the night. **We live in the sunlight of God, in the light of God's word**, and those verses are talking about what's coming our way. It tells us that we are not to be overtaken by *that day*, and the day that he's talking about there is the second coming of Christ.

B.) The Urgency of the Time we Live in

I say this, fully understanding what he's saying, because today, in the 21st century, most of God's people are about to be overtaken by that day. They have no clue where we're at, what God is doing, and how close we really are to the end of everything. God's people are living their lives and focusing on themselves and everything they want, and I'm telling you right now, there has never been a time in the history of Christianity when there has been more of an urgency of the time that we live in. **When you leave today, you will have a complete and understandable context of where you are at, why you're here, and where it's going.** What you do with it is up to you.

Psalms 2: 1-3. Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, [saying], 3. Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

The first note I would put into your Bible is that **Psalm 2:1-3 is a Second Coming Psalm.** The second coming, or the second advent of Christ, is called in the Bible *the day of the Lord* or *that day*. Understanding this Psalm will put everything going on around you today, as a New Testament Christian, into a proper context. Psalm 2 will explain today the world that we live in. We are seeing the living fulfilment of this verse right now. The world, as well as most Christians, are unable to put all that is going on into an understandable Biblical context. **Without a Bible, we will have no understanding of anything that God is doing.** Even in this church where you get the Bible more than probably 99% of the churches out there, with everything at your fingertips to learn and grow, I've got people who have no clue what's going on today. You get caught up with little league, dance classes, etc., and I'm not saying there's anything wrong with that, but you'd better understand that the curtain is almost coming down on the last act of the last play on planet earth. All you will get from ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, FOX news is the heathen point of view. What you need is the KJV news outlet.

C.) *Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*

I'm going to answer the question they're asking in verse one today. The vain thing in verse 1 that's got everybody in a rage really comes down to the fact that nobody today has any idea what

really is going on. The book of Ecclesiastes shows you man's government plans for planet Earth. He lays out some 30+ of them yet he tells you after he goes through all of those that every one of them is vanity.

What happened several weeks ago when Israel got attacked by Hamas shows us that where we're at right now is a defining moment for our country. Israel is God's chosen people. You would have thought that everybody in America would have been on Israel's side; however, now you're seeing that it's not true. The protests that you're seeing are just the tip of the iceberg of the people in this country that have a hatred for God's people. Now you're finding in the colleges that are training up the leaders of this country for the next two or three generations that they're all in the same boat when it comes to God's chosen people. Their defining moment of where they're at will trickle down, and it will have to become the defining moment where you're at before long.

The battle that has been going on for 6,000 years is simply a battle of two areas:

1. Who is going to be the final authority when push comes to shove
2. The establishment of a kingdom

All down through the history of man, it's been about one country trying to establish itself and then running the world and taking over other countries. It's been the mode for 6,000 years, and it's these two mindsets that we need to begin to see to set a context for where we're at today because America's defining moment is upon us. You're seeing it every day. Every news outlet, everything that's going on is about this country turning its back on the Nation of Israel.

God has three distinct plans laid out in the Bible, and they're all in play at the same time.

One may have a little more emphasis over the other at some particular time, but like the Trinity, each is different but they're all the same, and all history will be understanding these three plans.

1. God has a plan for the universe.
 - a. You'll start your study there in Isaiah 9: 6-7
2. God has a plan for planet earth.
 - a. You'll start your study there in Isaiah 45:18; the earth was formed to be inhabited and it's not in vain
3. God has a plan for His people.
 - a. In the Old Testament it will be about the nation of Israel and all the world during that time period is focused on the nation of Israel
 - b. In the New Testament it will be you and me—the church

Now obviously God's overall plan **within** what He's doing is to redeem the world that is in a fallen state through His salvation and then in the establishment of His government and kingdom in the millennium which we have talked about over the last couple of weeks. This is where we begin to see and understand what is going on today. It is absolutely vital for me to help you understand what is going on today. I want you to see the context of Psalms 2.

I had to go to the Bible in a basic, simple format to figure it out for myself, and when I bring it to you, I try to make it as simple for you as it was for me. So having said that, I've taken this whole complicated mess that we're facing and seeing not only in America but worldwide and put it into a context for you. **I just broke it down into nine key phases of history, and when you leave here today, you're going to understand the context of it all—if you want to.**

IV. Nine Key Phases the Earth goes through as God moves Through His Timeline of 6,000 Years

Phase One—Lucifer the Covering Cherub

Now we know from past time together that the earth is the establishment of God's kingdom—Isaiah 45:18. God starts this phase of His plan back in a garden called the garden of God.

A.) Lucifer: The Covering Cherub and his Fall

In that garden God sets up a being, he's a cherub, whose name is Lucifer and from Ezekiel chapter 28, the Bible says that he's the covering cherub. It looks like he is over everything that God had created in that garden. You may ask yourself where that garden is, and you're told in Ezekiel 28:13 that it is Eden the garden of God. That's where this all starts. He has a throne there that looks like it's all over everything that God created, and God put him in charge of it. Now this Eden, the garden of God where his throne was, is the same garden where Jerusalem is today.

In time, we know that he leads a revolt against God, and he tries to overthrow God because he wants to be the most high God. And God takes his position and throne away. He tries to take the garden and the kingdom for himself, but winds up losing the garden being kicked out, and now, he's no longer called Lucifer but Satan, the devil, etc.

B.) God will get the Glory and Honor out of Everything He Created

A Bible study question came in out of Isaiah 45:7 asking if I could shed any light on God creating evil.

Isaiah 45: 5-7. I [am] the LORD, and [there] is none else, [there] is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6. That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I [am] the LORD, and [there] is none else. 7. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these [things].

Now that's a legitimate question and would probably throw anybody a curveball for just a few seconds before you thought it through. Now let's establish this major teaching before we go any farther because it's key to what we're doing here. Look over in Proverbs 16:4-5.

Proverbs 16:4-5. The LORD hath made all [things] for himself: (now here it comes) yea, even the wicked (that's the devil) for the day of evil. 5. Every one [that is] proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: [though] hand [join] in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Now that's a dynamite little verse which begins to explain Isaiah 45:7. You'll notice that he didn't create the light because the light there is Jesus Christ and it has always been eternal, but he created the darkness. Now here's what you've got. **So, the way he created evil was this: he created Lucifer, but he gave Lucifer the chance to choose (free will) to be with God or go against God. And Lucifer, who God created, chose the evil—so in that sense God created the evil through Lucifer.** Having said that, notice the Bible says that *The LORD hath made all [things] for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.* Isaiah 41-48, if you don't have this in your Bible already, I'd put it up at the top of every one of these chapters. Those seven chapters deal with God as the supreme ruler and being of the universe, so you're finding these verses in Isaiah right in the middle of these chapters.

And what it says in verse five is that *Every one [that is] proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD (that's the devil and unsaved people in general) [though] hand [join] in hand, he shall not be unpunished.* **He just told you that He made all things for Himself, so God will use the devil.** He created him, put him over the kingdom...all part of God's plan. He had the free will; he chose to revolt against God; now he's the wicked headed for the day of wickedness. And you know what...**God says, hey I'll use you; then I'm going to destroy you.**

This is why you find in the Old Testament in Jeremiah 27:6 God refer to Nebuchadnezzar as *my servant*. Nebuchadnezzar was one of the wickedest kings in the Old Testament. He was far from God's servant—in a good sense; however, God used him to chastise the nation of Israel, *hand [join] in hand*, but then after God used him, he destroyed him.

Isaiah 45: 1. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus.... Cyrus was the king of Persia; he was a pagan king, who ran a pagan nation, who cared nothing about the things of God, and as far as we know, he's burning in hell today; however, God used him to send the nation of Israel back. **God uses every nation, everything he created, whether it's good or whether it's bad because He is the Supreme Being of the Universe.**

C.) Vessels of Honor and Vessels of Dishonor

It says in 2 Timothy 2:20 that God has vessels of honor and God has vessels of dishonor. God uses those vessels. **You'll either be a vessel of honor that God will use to get the honor and glory forth through your life or you'll be a vessel of dishonor that goes against everything that God is and he will wind up using you as an example to other people to show what a life of sin will do for you.** He uses everything.

Someone asked me one time that if God created Lucifer and allowed him through free will to sin against God and bring sin into the world, how is God ever going to judge an unsaved person at the Great White Throne if he allowed sin to come in the first place. That's a great question, but the answer is even greater. You see the same God that allowed it to come in is the same God that came down Himself and paid the price to take it out. Now it's on you.

So, what you're seeing today is the devil being used by God to deal with the nation of Israel, and then God is going to destroy him. God uses everything he created, and He gets the honor and glory out of it as a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor. God will get the honor and glory out of everything.

Phase Two—Adam and Eve

Now God is beginning to establish His kingdom with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden which is the same garden that Satan had in Genesis 1:1 and which in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 that he got kicked out of. That throne and the crown is set now as a seat of power and authority for the eternal universe. At one time it was the devil's (Lucifer's) before he fell; he lost it. God now gives it to Adam and Eve and begins to move through his plan, and you know what, the devil wants it back. So, he comes after Adam and Eve. He gets them to fall, and now they're kicked out, and it's now back in his hands again. The history of mankind is not complicated. It's about a garden; it's about a city named Jerusalem and the battle for 6,000 years over it.

Phase Three—Abraham & the Calling Out of the Nation of Israel

After Adam and Eve are kicked out...you go through a little time here...you have Noah and the flood in Genesis 6, you have the Tower of Babel in Genesis 10 and 11, and then lo and behold in Genesis 11 Abram, who becomes Abraham, pops up. Now, he's known today as the Father of the Jews. In Genesis 12, Abraham is called out. He's over in Ur of Chaldees (that's Babylon), and he's called out to the same garden that Adam and Eve were in; he's called out to the same garden that the devil was in; and in Genesis 15, God takes him out and shows the promises to Israel through Abraham, He's going to give them that land, and they're going to build on that exact same garden through the development of the nation of Israel. We have Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and they're headed to the promised land. What's in the promised land? The same garden!

They go down to Egypt for 430 years. In Exodus 12, we find the calling out of the nation of Israel to the exact same garden that Adam and Eve were in; the exact same garden the devil was in. History is about a garden; history is about a city (Jerusalem). The devil tries to keep them out of this land, so while they were in Egypt, the devil was stockpiling that promised land with giants. All the ungodly nations that he could muster he transferred into that garden to keep them out. And yet all those nations that he had surrounded the garden with are the same nations he surrounded the garden with today. The names have just changed. The devil has always had an iron satanic ring around that garden.

Phase Four—Israel Becomes Established as a Kingdom

Israel becomes established as a kingdom in I Samuel, and they put their capital in Jerusalem—right on the same spot that the devil's throne was in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. And they build a temple on that spot to God. You'll find that in 2 Samuel 24:18-25 where David buys that

threshing place, and he builds the temple right on the spot—the exact spot, in the exact Garden that runs all the way back through history to Genesis 1:1.

Today if you went to the Holy Land (and I use that term loosely because it's the Unholy Land right now—it won't be holy until the King of Kings comes back and makes it holy) on that same temple spot, the same one that David bought, the same one that the Old Testament temple was built on, the same one that in the millennium the temple will be built on....right now if you go there the Muslims have it. They have their temple on it; it's called The Dome of the Rock. Folks, for 6,000 years it's been about the Jew and his land, and the plan of God, and the devil's plan to stop it.... It's about a garden; it's about a city.

Phase Five—Baal Worship and Captivity

Now after David and Solomon, and they're around 1,000 BC, the devil attacks the nation of Israel through Baal worship, and Israel begins to go into a decline as they dump the word of God and move down in a steady decline just like the USA—learn from history. And finally in 2 Chronicles chapter 36 and 2 Kings chapter 25, they finally go into captivity. Sennacherib takes the 10 northern tribes into captivity, and Nebuchadnezzar takes the two southern tribes. Now the devil has the garden back again. All history is about a garden folks. What's going on around you today in the Middle East and is filtering into this country, and it is only going to get worse, boils down to a garden.

Phase Six—Satan Runs the World Through Nations

For the next 400 years, the devil tries to destroy Israel by wiping out the promised Seed. This will be the book of Daniel. This will be Sennacherib taking the Jews and putting them down into Samaria and then having them interbreed. This is where the half breed Jew and Gentiles come into being. It's all a plan. Now the Jews are out of the land. It's interesting to note that during these 400 years the devil was busy. **He couldn't bring the giants back like he did previously, we're moving too far down through history, so he brings the intellectual giants back.** Did you ever notice that up to the captivity you have two religions on this planet—God's Zionism and Baal worship. When the Jews go into captivity, the devil knows what's coming and what he's got to do to offset the first coming of Christ to keep his garden. In those 400 years, the devil brings up Brahmanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism...all the religions of the East come out of this time period. They were nowhere before; it's moving in a direction.

And now the Jews are out of the land, and the devil runs the world through Babylon, Persia, Greece, and finally Rome. He's back in the garden again, this time through the nations, but as I told you a couple of weeks ago out of Isaiah 11:11, **God will restore the nation of Israel the second time.** Right now, we are in that second recovery, and you and I have a privilege to see it firsthand—to experience the most exciting time. There's no room in my heart for fear today about any of this...there's only room for opportunities. Why are God's people so afraid? I'll tell you why. You're unprepared, and the day is going to overtake you.

Phase Seven—The First Coming & Satan Running the World Through Religion

Then around 4 BC, Christ shows up in Bethlehem. Then in time, around Matthew 21, He has his triumphal entry into where...Jerusalem, right where the garden was. He comes to bring the Kingdom of Heaven back to Israel, the crown, in the exact same garden that has been fought over all down through history back to Genesis 1:1. Now this will be found in your Bible as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Now we see Psalms 2:2 at work at the first coming of Christ just like we're going to see it again in a minute.

Psalms 2: 2. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed,

The Lord is God the Father and his anointed is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the counsel of Psalms chapter one which you were told to stay away from. The kings will be the nation of Rome (the Caesars) and the rulers that take counsel together will be the Priests, the Scribes, the Sadducees, the Pharisees. They crucify Christ, He dies and is buried in a tomb, and the devil has the garden again.

I love these little tidbits. Did you ever see in John Chapter 20:15 ...trained eye.... He comes out of the tomb; they all show up early in the morning; He's walking around talking with them and they don't recognize who He is, but then that little verse says *she supposing him to be the gardener*. He was. That's His garden!

Now you need to understand something. All this today with the attack on Israel, put it in context, it's not about Gaza, it's not about the Palestinians or the West Bank that they want to be free and have a place to live. That's what the news media gives you. It's simply about how the devil for 6,000 years has tried to wipe out the nation of Israel. Why? Because the devil is jealous.

A.) Satan's Rage:

The Bible says in *Proverbs 6:34: For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.* And the vain thing he is in a rage over is the fact that the Jew is going to get that garden that the devil thinks is his. He's in a rage over it, and he's going to wipe them off the face of this planet. It has already been stated by some of those Muslim nations about wiping the Jew off the face of this planet. In 606 BC Nebuchadnezzar came down and butchered them and in 70 AD Titus came down and it was a bloodbath. All those times the devil has gotten the garden back.

So, some time passes. **The Roman Empire has been a great tool of Satan to wipe out the Jew, but now as times change, he can't use the nations anymore. The pagan Roman empire becomes the holy Roman empire around 300 or 400 AD, and now the Roman Catholic Church becomes the great tool by which he's going to wipe out the Jew.** For the next 1500 years while Rome is in power, the Catholic church has never recognized Israel as a nation while

they recognize the Palestinians as a nation. I mean you've got God's church who loves the Jews, and you've got the devil's church who hates the Jews.

Phase Eight—The Dark Ages, The Reformation, Philadelphian Church Age, Israel Recovered a Second Time in 1948

Some times passes....500, 1000, we get into the Dark Ages, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500...God is still moving in His time toward establishing His kingdom, then as it all kind of shapes its way and God uses everything to put it in that direction keeping in mind now all through this time He's giving every Gentile on this planet a chance to trust Jesus Christ as their own personal savior. Then around 1580 or so, the Reformation comes with Martin Luther, the King James Bible comes on the scene under James the First of Scotland in England, and we saw the opening of the Philadelphian church age from 1600-1900. Things are moving along; God is moving toward and through his 6,000-year timeline to establish His kingdom with Israel, the Kingdom of Heaven, and also establishing his spiritual kingdom, the Kingdom of God, with the church.

Now let me pull it all together for you. Let's define clearly now what the rage is in *Psalms 2:1—Why do the heathen rage*. Look at Isaiah 37:28. God is speaking to the King of Assyria, who is a type of the Antichrist, so technically He's speaking to the devil.

*Isaiah 37:28-32. But I know thy abode (the devil is living in Assyria), and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me (there it is). 29. Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips (just go back to Job 41 and you'll find this is the devil), and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest. 30. And this [shall be] a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat [this] year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. 31. And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah (there's that Jew going back in 1948—the remnant) shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward: (there it is!) 32. **For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant,** and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.*

The rage now has been defined from the Bible as the devil's hatred for God and His people, and the Jews getting back in the land. You see that hatred displayed in Revelation 12 and 13.

Phase Nine –The Final Phase

Now today you are seeing this 6,000-year rage play out in the final phase. The remnant went back in 1948 and will be ready to bear fruit in the millennium.

A.) Now the next thing I want you to understand and define is the second part of Psalm 2:1.

Psalm 2:1... and the people imagine a vain thing? This will be the Muslims thinking they are the real heir to the land because both Jew and Muslims claim Abraham to be their father. When you go back to Genesis 16, you're going to find that Abraham has a boy (the promised seed) named Isaac, but he also gets kind of messed up and produces a Hamitic child through an

Egyptian named Ishmael which becomes the Muslims. Now in the middle east, the nations think that the garden (Jerusalem) belongs to them because Abraham is their father. They have changed it around and tried to take the place of the promised seed.

Now this debate of who's really the heir is clearly laid out in the book of Galatians where he goes into an analogy of the Jew and the Muslim laying out who is the rightful heir and who isn't. He says in Galatians chapter 4 that we are to kick the Muslim out of the land. End of story.

B.) Then he says in *Psalms 2:3*. *Let us break their bands asunder.*

Now let's define that. Come over to *Zechariah 11: 7-17*. *And I will feed the flock of slaughter, [even] you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands (there it is); and I fed the flock. 8. Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me. 9. Then said I, I will not feed you: that that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off, let it be cut off; and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another. 10. And I took my staff (here it comes), [even] **Beauty**, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. 11. And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it [was] the word of the LORD. 12. And I said unto them, If ye think good, give [me] my price; and if not, forbear. **So they weighed for my price thirty [pieces] of silver.** 13. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty [pieces] of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD. (Now here it comes) 14. Then I cut asunder mine other staff, [even] **Bands (there it is)**, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. 15. And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a **foolish shepherd**. 16. For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, [which] shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces (Now watch it). 17. Woe to the **idol shepherd** (look how it's spelled—like a false god) that leaveth the flock! **the sword [shall] be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.***

Now you can see the Antichrist all through this—the foolish shepherd and then the idol shepherd; he has a bad right eye and a bad right arm. Note the connection with Judas in verse 12 and the thirty pieces of silver. He's the Antichrist; we saw that in John.

The beauty of the Lord here is defined in *Psalms 27:4* and *Psalms 90:17*. **The beauty is God's love and His presence in Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple. Bands (v. 14 which he will break asunder) will be the brotherhood between God and the 12 tribes in a covenant with Abraham.** Now can you see how that all goes together with where we are today? What we are seeing is the final phase of God's plan on Earth.

C.) Then he says in *Psalms 2:3*. *...and cast away their cords from us.*

The cords will be the covenant that binds Israel together with God. The Muslim faith becomes a tool along with the Roman Catholic Church to destroy Israel. You can mark it

down—there is a binding between the Roman Catholic church and the Muslim Islam radicals. They have different beliefs, but they have in common wanting to wipe out the nation of Israel.

You know what happens from here—1880 the Zionist movement, we dumped the KJV, 1914-1918 World War I, you have the Ottoman Empire that's destroyed at the end, 1939-1945 you have World War II, 1948 Israel becomes a nation fulfilling Matthew 24, and now we have all those iron ring nations that have popped up.

Israel becomes a nation in 1948 and the next day the Arab league attacks Israel. Seven nations in this league attack Israel, and by the way, they are the seven same nations that Joshua faced. Israel kicked the fire out of them. Eight years later in 1956, you have the Sinai Campaign, and they go after the Jew again; Israel kicks the fire out of them. On May 15, 1967 you have the Six Days War with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, and Egypt gets on national radio and tells the world that they're going to wipe out the Jew forever. The Jews beat them in six days. October 6, 1973, was the Yom Kippur War with Egypt and Syria. This is the one that has been mirrored in the attack by Hamas. You don't want to miss this. In every one of these wars, the devil runs the world. In each case, when Israel gets attacked, they kick the fire out of these nations. They start to take land back that belongs to the Jew, and in each case the UN steps in and calls a ceasefire after Israel was winning and made them give all the land back. It never allowed Israel to destroy their enemies, so now their enemies regroup and reattack a few years later. And here we are again.

Now learn from history.

V. Summary

So now you have a biblical context for Psalms 2: 1-3 for the times and the seasons we live in. Now you know and understand what the real issue is—it's the garden of God. It's who once had it and lost it; then God gave it to His People Israel, and the devil wants it back. All the nations that you're seeing on the playing field are just pawns on the chessboard of the world state of affairs. All of this is about the nation of Israel and the garden. The devil wants it back, but it won't happen. The Bible says in *Romans 11:29*. *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.* (God's promises to Israel haven't changed).

And for 6,000 years, the devil has tried to stop God's plans and wipe the people of God off the face of this planet so he can get back his garden. What you are seeing today is the efforts to wipe the Jews off planet earth. The rage and the vain thing are that the devil hates Israel because Israel is heir to the land (the garden) and brought forth the Lord Jesus Christ. You've got the true shepherd and the idol shepherd. His jealousy is his rage. And yet the Bible tells us in Exodus 3:1 when Moses was before the burning bush, which is a picture of Israel, that bush burned and burned but was never consumed. God will restore Israel, but they must go through the tribulation to get back to God.

We have to use our time wisely, too. We ought to be doing everything we can to win as many people as we can to Christ because I'm telling you the last few grains of sand through God's hourglass are coming through.