



Pointers and questions on the book of

Psalms:
Selection A

PSALMS

Session 1

Psalm 2

God, his Anointed One and getting our attitude right

Summary

This is a coronation psalm celebrating the accession of David as the new king of Israel in Zion (Jerusalem). But the New Testament quotations from it tell us that it looks beyond the human king to *the King*, Jesus himself.

- v1-2** The nations surrounding Israel posture and threaten in order to test the mettle of the king newly crowned in Zion (Jerusalem).
- 4-6** God, whose purpose cannot be thwarted, laughs in derision at their feeble threats. He gives his full backing to the king in Zion.
- 7-9** The King himself speaks, reminding everyone that he rules by God's own decree. His coronation puts him in a special father/son relationship with God, and with God's help he intends to rule the surrounding nations, not vice versa!
- 10-12** A warning is issued to those nations. Their welfare depends on their attitude to God's King now installed in Zion. It will be in their interests to keep on the right side of him!

Questions to get you thinking

1. Look at verses 1-3. Do people still adopt the same rebellious attitude to God and to his Anointed One? Give some examples from your experience.
2. To whom does the title 'Anointed One' (v2) refer? If it can refer to more than one person, who are they?
3. How did the apostles in Acts 4:18-31 interpret this passage?
4. What sort of laughter is it in verse 4? Is God amused?
5. What does God mean when he says to the king, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father' (v7)?
6. How does the New Testament interpret 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'? See Hebrews 1:3-5a and Acts 13:32-33.
7. Since this psalm is ultimately about Jesus, do you think he took up God's invitation in v8-9?
8. To whom does the warning in v10-12 apply today?
9. If Jesus is destined to come out on top in the end, why do we continue to be scared by the kind of loudmouths described in the opening verses?

