

- How does submitting to the king make us free?
- Prayer is a yoke and like any other yoke, we need to develop and grow. What does it mean to submit to the King in prayer?

The four things about submission in today's sermon were:

1. Obey (being in the 'Yes' position)
 2. Accept
 3. Cherish
 4. Expect
- Are there particular ones in which you struggle more than others?
 - How has this conversation changed the way in which you see prayer?

Consider reading through the Psalms (one chapter at a time), that you may discover anew a pattern of prayer.

PRAYER

Pray for a life-changing transformation in our prayer lives.

Pray that God would help us to give up other 'kings' in our lives.

Pray that God would help us submit (put on the yoke) to prayer.



A Life of Prayer

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 2: The Hope for a King

30 May 2021

Psalm 2

Series Overview:

Prayer is not an optional activity of a 'Follower of Jesus', it is central to our faith. Yet many of us struggle to maintain a regular, dynamic prayer life.

We at Lismore Baptist Church have dedicated this present season to listening and responding to God, therefore we will spend this time through our preaching and teaching ministry focusing on prayer, with the hope of God transforming not only our individual prayer life, but also that of our faith community.

We invite you to join with us to explore the possibility of real and lasting prayer transformation, through our weekly Sunday sermons, regular Growth Groups, and our personal devotional times.

May God bless you.

Overview:

Psalms is a collection of 150 ancient Hebrew poems and prayers that come from all different periods in Israel's history. Many of the poems are connected directly with King David (73 in all). David was known as a poet and a harp player.

Not all of the poems are connected to David. They are connected to a number of different poets. There are poems of Asaph (12 of these). There are poems of the sons of Korah (11 of these). There are two poems of Heman and Ethan (leaders in the temple). There are poems of Solomon and Moses (3 of these). And then nearly one-third of the poems (49) are from other anonymous poets.

Many of the poems were used by the choirs that sang in Israel's temple, but the book of Psalms is not actually a hymnbook. At some point after Israel's exile to Babylon, these ancient poems were gathered together and arranged into the book of Psalms.

The book, as a whole, has a very unique design and message. And you only really notice it when you read it through from beginning to end. You actually see the design most clearly by going to the end of the book. The Book of Psalms concludes with 5 poems of praise to God (Psalms 146-150). Each of the five chapters begins and ends with the same word – Hallelujah. Hallelujah is a Hebrew word that is actually a command telling the people to “praise God.” (“Hallelu” means praise. And “Jah” is short for “Yahweh” which means “God.”)

As you move backward from this very intentional and structured ending to the book, you actually see that the entire book is divided into 5 large sections that are actually indicated within the book itself. Book 1 (chapters 1-41). Book 2 (chapters 42-72). Book 3 (chapters 73-89). Book 4 (chapters 90-106). Book 5 (chapters 107-150).

So, the book has a very definite conclusion (chapters 146-150). It is internally divided into these 5 books (sections). And when you come to the very beginning of the book, you also come to realize that it has a very clear introduction found in chapters 1 & 2. Those are the two chapters that we are going to focus on for the next two weeks (although in doing that, we will also be tapping into the overall themes of the entire book).

Text: Read Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is a poetic reflection on God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 that one day a Messianic King will come, establish God's Kingdom over the world and defeat evil once and for all. When we look at Psalms 1 & 2 together, they combine to remind us that this prayer book was meant to do two things. It was meant to help the people of God to be obedient to the Torah (the teachings of God). And it was meant to inspire hope in the people of God as they look ahead to the future messianic kingdom even as they live in the midst of profound brokenness. Psalm 2 is also like a coronation psalm. It's the kind of language that would have been used in the coronation of a king like David or a king in the line of David. The poem is filled with content that would have been used as someone who succeeded to the throne and was crowned the king.

DISCUSSION

- The psalmist is referring to a heavenly king (anointed one, Messiah) rather than an earthly king. In your own words, how would you summarize Psalm 2?
- Why do we long for a king? How do we long for a king in the wrong ways?
- Why do kings make us nervous? Does Jesus make you nervous?