

Transformed By Praise

Week 8 Study Questions (pp. 99-113)

Group Questions

Discussion starter: What are some reasons why unbelievers doubt that God is all-good and all-powerful? When are Christians most vulnerable to question God's goodness or power? What gives you assurance that God is good and in control?

1. According to the author, "Psalm 2 teaches two dimensions of the Lord's reign, or two ways in which the Lord reigns over his people and over the world." What are they? How are they related to each other?
2. Psalm 2:4 says that the Lord "sits" in heaven. Explain what this means. Do you fear or take comfort in the Lord sitting in heaven?
3. Read Psalm 2 and identify all the characters, especially taking notice of the earthly kings/rulers and the heavenly king. How is the relationship portrayed between the human kings and the LORD? How is this applicable to our relationship with the LORD?
4. The LORD's Anointed is introduced in Ps 2:2. For the original audience, who is this? Where else is the Anointed one referred to in Psalm 2? How does Jesus fit into Psalm 2?
5. On page 107 the author writes, "so while the Lord reigns in heaven and over all the earth, his reign is indirect. His reign is carried out through the agency of his anointed, messianic king—the human king empowered by the divine Spirit to reign over the nations of the earth." According to this truth, what are the implications for followers of other monotheistic religions such as Judaism and Islam? What are the implications for Christians?

6. Acts 13:28-33 quotes Psalm 2:7 to prove in a sense Jesus became the Son of God at his resurrection from the dead. Explain how this is possible in light of the doctrine of the Trinity (cf. Rom 1:1-3; Matt 28:18-19). What error are we to avoid regarding Christ's sonship?

7. If the original audience of the final form of the Psalms was the Jews in Babylonian captivity, they must have struggled to reconcile the message of the Psalms with their lot in life. How might the Psalms serve to strengthen rather than belittle your faith in the midst of communal or personal suffering?

Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 18 and compare it to Psalm 2. Although the original audiences of Revelation and Psalms are different, there are striking parallels that John (the author of Revelation) makes explicit. Identify the warnings and instructions for Christians in Revelation 18. Are these same warnings and instructions also found in the Book of Psalms? Meditate on the various ways Psalm 2 (and by implication the rest of the Psalms) is relevant today as a message for unbelievers and Christians.

Application

Jesus Christ fills many roles. For example, he is Savior, Shepherd, Brother, Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. Psalm 2 describes Jesus Christ as the Anointed, the Son of God, the King of kings. Find a way to share with a friend how Christ is king over you, and how this is a blessing for "all those who take refuge in him" (Ps 2:12).