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Predestination

Why did Kings Stand

against the

Lord and His Anointed?

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Why did Kings Stand Against the Lord and His Anointed?

Topics.

- Why did the Gentiles rage and the people plot in vain?
- Israel's rebellion and God's foreknowledge.
- Two reasons the apostles cite Old Testament verses.
- The LORD in heaven laughs and holds nations and kings in derision.
- All things are working together according to God's predestined plan.
- Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you perish in the way.

Prior to the events of the following verses Peter had healed a crippled man and was proclaiming Jesus, his resurrection from the dead and preaching that there is salvation in no one else other than Jesus and about five thousand were saved. Because of this the priests, the captain of the temple, the Sadducees, the rulers, elders, scribes and Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, Alexander and all who were of the high-priestly family gathered at Jerusalem and took Peter and John into their custody to stand before their counsel. They threatened Peter and John and charged them not to teach at all in the name of Jesus and then released them (Acts 4:1-22). Peter and John no-doubt with great excitement then go to their friends and report to them all that had happened and when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said:

- Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his anointed" (Acts 4:24-27).

1

These words immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to Psalm two in which it is recorded of David thousands of years ago in prophecy saying:

- Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, ³"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us. (Psalm 2:1-3).

Here is the stunning thing thousands of years later Peter and those with him by citing these words of David shine a spotlight on who God had in mind when David said, "Why do the nations rage and the kings of the earth, the rulers and the peoples plot in vain?" Since Peter and those with him go onto say:

- For truly in this city (Jerusalem) there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place (Acts 4:27-28).

It is certainly true that David in saying what he did may well have been referring to himself since he was the LORD'S anointed King and all the kings of the earth were no-doubt at that time plotting against him, but this is the glory wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy. Since David mentions no names it allows for his prophetic words to have an immediate and local fulfilment while at the same time allowing the prophecy to transcend time to fall upon another and even greater King who the LORD anointed and to future kings of the earth.

NOTICE: the very first thing Peter and those with him credit God for is his sovereignty they had no-doubt that God was the supreme King and that the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ was in God's sovereign plan that He purposed in His eternal mind and by His eternal foreknowledge before the ages began. As we travel through the book of Psalms reading the prayers of David it becomes very clear that David's faith and relationship toward God was such that he viewed everything in his life whether it was good or bad, joy or depression as being from the sovereign hand of God.

MOSES, ISRAEL'S REBELLION AND GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE

In the book of Genesis God told Moses after he dies the people of Israel will rise and whore after foreign gods in the land that they are entering and forsake God and break the covenant He had made with them (Gen. 31:18) clearly showing that God knows what his people are going to do long before they actually do it. This is because God's mind and eyes are eternal, He has no beginning and no end and as such sees the past, present and future of our world suspended in time (as we know it) as clearly as each other. This is something our fallen, mortal mind trapped in time cannot comprehend and a reason when we enter into talking about God's sovereignty, foreknowledge and the topic of predestination we should never be dogmatic, but always leave room for a certain amount of mystery. Often in the New Testament a verse is cited from a particular chapter of the Old Testament for the following two reasons:

1. To comfort and prove to those in the present time that certain events unfolding before them are in God's sovereign control.
2. To link us to that particular chapter because it will often give further information and insight concerning an event or concerning Christ.

2

THE LORD IN HEAVEN LAUGHS AND HOLDS NATIONS AND KINGS IN DERISION

The following prophetic words of David show that Peter, John and their friends though considered unlearned and common men in the eyes of the Jewish religious rulers had an enormously good knowledge and insight into the Old Testament Scriptures. In great rejoicing and inspired by the Holy Spirit of God they link us to Psalm two which give us a picture of God's attitude as He sat in heaven and looked toward Herod and Pilate and the nations, kings, rulers and religious leaders who resisted His will and aggressively acted against His sovereign eternal plans and purposes. Here is the wonder, beauty and majesty of the Bible David in Psalm two goes on to say:

- The LORD who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth" (Psalm 2:4-11).

The words "You are my Son; today I have begotten you, I will set my King on Mount Zion and terrify the people in my fury" can with limitations apply to the Roman era because Christ, God's King appeared in Jerusalem (the city that sits on mount Zion) and his death and resurrection totally abolished the Levitical priesthood and the common peoples need for a human priest and in 70 AD the Romans attacked the city of Jerusalem and brought it to ruin and destroyed the temple, but David being a prophet also tells us God will set His King the Lord Jesus Christ on mount Zion God's Holy hill and make the nations his inheritance and the world his possession. This part of David's prophetic words has not yet been

fulfilled God has not yet made Jesus the King in Jerusalem ruling over the nations of the world. This event will come to pass when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

3

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see title:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

GOD HOLDS KINGS AND NATIONS

David's words:

- God holds kings and nations in dishonour who deny him and his will and laughs at their futile prideful and arrogant attempts to establish their own kingdoms.

Show that it is foolish for Christians to go to war to protect the Christian faith or to protect God's name since God laughs at those who arrogantly deny Him and think that He cannot intervene in the affairs of man to bring about His eternal and sovereign plan that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the ages began. Added to this it is also against the commandments of Christ and the royal law love your neighbour as yourself to argue, fight, or go to war to protect God. It could be likened to a four-year-old child trying to protect his father in a street fight. God

is fully able to protect himself and bring judgment on those who oppose Him when He chooses. David being a prophet and inspired by the Holy Spirit with these words shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God does not feel sorry for Himself when the prideful and arrogant deny His existence and His will, but rather laughs at their arrogant and futile foolishness.

ALL THINGS ARE WORKING TOGETHER ACCORDING TO GOD'S PREDESTINED PLAN

The words, "To do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place" (v28) shows that all the events of Christ's crucifixion were in God's eternal foreordained plan and that there is nothing that is outside of His eternal wisdom and His eternal plan whether good or bad that is not working toward His eternal plan in raising up faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who will rule and reign with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ in eternal glory.

KISS THE SON

David finishes the Psalm saying, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psalm 2:12). This means that individuals and nations should make peace with God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ and not enemies so that they will escape God's judgment and His wrath.

FOOTNOTE

4

We must always keep in mind when we are speaking of God's sovereignty, God's timeless mind, predestination and God's foreknowledge that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our limited fallen mortal mind can comprehend therefore we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning God's eternal sovereignty, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

For further information see the title:

- The Potter and the Clay.

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.