



+ **YOU**

Sermon Series: Irrefutable: Prophecies that Point Us to Jesus

To be used with: Session 4: The King Who Reigns Forever

Sermon Title Possibilities: The King is Coming

Scripture: Psalm 2

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study *Irrefutable: Prophecies that Point Us to Jesus*, these sermon outlines will follow the same theme as the small group study, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

The Point: Jesus rules His kingdom now and forever.

Introduction: When I was a teenager, I read a fascinating book called *My Life Without God*. It was written by William Murray, son of the infamous atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair. If you'll recall, she led the fight to abolish prayer and Bible reading in the public schools. William Murray grew up without a father, and he said his mother was a very angry woman. He developed a real hatred for her, and by the time he was an adult he was taking out this hatred on others. He didn't enjoy the media attention he received as the son of Madalyn Murray O'Hair, and he became a chain smoker and an alcoholic. Finally in 1980, he came to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior. From that point on, his life was changed forever. He quit drinking and smoking, and he no longer hated his mother. Time passed before he could honestly say he loved her, but at least he wanted to love her. He said before he came to know Christ, all he wanted was revenge.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair is dead and gone, but unfortunately her legacy is alive and well. That shouldn't surprise us. The apostle Paul said the gospel message is an offense to those who don't believe. Neither should we be alarmed by their efforts. Those who make war against Jesus are fighting none other than God Himself, and He can take care of Himself. That's pretty much the whole point of the second Psalm. The writer spoke of how the heathen nations were resisting God. They said they didn't want Him to rule over them. However, he pointed out, that wasn't their decision to make. God didn't need their permission to carry out His plans, and He still doesn't. The psalmist spoke of a special anointed King who would come, and when He came, no one would be able to stop Him. He would be unlike any king the world had ever seen before. We know from the New Testament that the psalmist was referring to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. The ridicule.

- A. "Why do the heathen rage?" – Other translations say "nations".
 - 1. He was speaking of an outward action rather than an inward attitude.
 - a. The pagan nations were angry and vocal about it.
 - b. Their anger had caused them to "imagine a vain thing".

2. They were rebelling “against the LORD, and His anointed”.
 - a. Other translations say, “anointed one”. This translates the Hebrew word *meshiach*, from which we get the word “Messiah”.
 - b. The apostles affirmed this was a messianic prophecy (Acts 4:25-26).
- B. What was God’s reaction to their mockery?
 1. He was laughing at them.
 - a. The word in the original language suggests scornful laughter. God was laughing at them because of their absurdity.
 - b. No matter how hard and long they fought against God, He was still going to get the last word.
 2. Why do people continue to mock God?
 - a. It’s not because of logical or scientific issues; it’s because they don’t want to acknowledge their accountability to Him.
 - b. God still laughs at them, because they are fighting a losing battle.
 - In my younger days, I was disturbed by these passages that tell of God laughing at mortals. The older I get, the more I realize that people give God plenty of reasons to laugh at them. Not long ago, I read about a group of atheists who gathered together to give God “the finger”. Do they really think such a sophomoric stunt is going to faze the God of the universe?

II. The reckoning.

- A. A “day of reckoning” simply a day of accounting.
 1. God would pour out His wrath on those who defy Him.
 - a. To scorn the One who will decide your eternal destiny is the worst kind of folly.
 - b. People today don’t like to talk about the wrath of God, but it’s as real as His love and His mercy.
 2. He would carry out His judgment through His appointed King.
 - a. This King would be God’s own Son.
 - b. All people are made in God’s image, and those who trust in Jesus are God’s adopted children, but none of us are “sons of God” in the same sense as Jesus.
- B. God made a special promise to His chosen King.
 1. He would reign over the entire earth.
 - a. Not even David or Solomon could make that claim.
 - b. His kingdom would be eternal (2 Samuel 7:13).
 2. He would “break them with a rod of iron”.
 - Suppose you walked into a room full of clay pottery and started swinging an iron bar. What do you think would happen to that pottery? That’s what will happen to those who oppose God.

III. The response.

- A. We know our Lord will prevail, but what should we do in the meantime?
 1. We should serve the Lord with fear and trembling.

- a. In practical terms, it means we should remember that He is watching us and holding us accountable for what we do (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - b. He is merciful, but He still expects us to obey His commands.
2. We should show proper respect to His Son.
 - a. “Kiss the Son” – In those days, a kiss was an expression of loyalty to one’s king or someone else in authority.
 - b. Our Lord Jesus is worthy of our loyalty and respect.
 - Vance Havner used to say, “Jesus Christ demands more complete allegiance than any dictator who ever lived. The difference is, He has a right to it.”
- B. What happens to those who fail to honor God’s Son?
 1. They will face the wrath of Almighty God.
 - a. It is no small matter to reject Jesus, especially when you consider all He has done for you.
 - b. Jesus died to save you from the wrath you deserve. If you reject Him, you have no alternative but to face God’s eternal wrath.
 2. On the other hand, God blesses those who trust in Jesus.
 - a. He forgives their sins and adopts them into His family.
 - b. He gives them eternal life in heaven.

Conclusion: One of the great preachers of the twentieth century was Dr. R.G. Lee. He was pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis for more than thirty years and served three terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Lee had a famous sermon that he preached over one thousand times. It was called “Payday, Someday.” When Dr. Lee preached that sermon in his later years, he often told of a young woman named Toni Jo Henry. She lived on the wild side. As Dr. Lee said, “She had her lovers, supposedly, but not a lover. She had her sweethearts, supposedly, but not a sweetheart.” One day Toni Jo Henry killed a man who begged her not to kill him. She was tried and convicted of murder, and she was sentenced to die by electrocution. The day of the execution came, and Toni Jo walked to her death. Her long hair had been shaven off. As she approached the electric chair, she paused, and then she made a very interesting comment. She said, “Somehow I knew all along that God ran the show, but I tried to steal just one little act.” Dr. Lee commented that this young woman laughed at preachers and laughed at the Bible. She had even heard Dr. Lee preach his famous sermon, “Payday, Someday.” She didn’t listen, and her payday finally came.

Friends, whether you want to admit or not, God Almighty reigns. You can mock Him or defy Him, but you can’t dethrone Him. He’s going to reign whether you believe in Him or not. Many people, like Toni Jo Henry, do not realize that truth until it’s too late. Others, like William Murray, recognize their foolishness, repent of their sins, and trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life. What about you? When King Jesus came the first time, He came to bring forgiveness and redemption. When He comes the next time – and He is coming again – He is coming to bring judgment. Will you be ready?

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