

In my last sermon I began with Jesus' words to the religious leaders..."You search the Scriptures, because, in them you think (believe) you have eternal life. And they testify (bear witness to) me." On the morning of the resurrection he reminded the disciples

"This is what I told you while I was with you...Everything must be fulfilled that is written concerning me in the Law, the prophets and the Psalms." We might be surprised to be told that 'the things concerning Jesus' aren't confined to prophets...Isaiah, the professionals..we find him in the PSALMS! Poems, hymns, prayers, confessions and the odd diatribe! Not prophecies in the strictest sense of the word, but unmistakable POINTERS to Jesus everywhere, teaching us important things about him.

And Psalm 2 is a classical example. It has an unusual, sometimes difficult structure. Three voices are heard...a Narrator... vv 1-3 sets the scene. Mankind is in revolt against God. Then the Lord Yahweh enthroned in heaven speaks ... verses 4-6 Then the newly installed King speaks about his CREDENTIALS as The Lord's anointed. verses 7-9 The narrator concludes... The ball in man's court. 10-12

Remember this is an ALLEGORY - a verbal picture with an important secondary meaning, not a prophecy with a specific time and space framework. The scene set is on a wide canvas...

READ verses 1-3 WHY, WHY? what has mankind got against God and His Son? These conspirators aren't ATHEISTS. They know who they're plotting against! It's the Lord of creation and His Christ! Like many, perhaps most people today...marvel at Creation. They would say (or sing!) with Louis.. 'I say to myself what a wonderful world. The hymn How great Thou art, says the same thing. Many people's number one, even ahead of Jerusalem! including many non church

goers! It's good to know that God out there arranging things...the SEASONS... the SCENERY...keeping things ticking over...

That's what many, probably the majority think, when they make time to think. St Paul says it's natural, it's in the HUMAN psyche to recognise the Creator's hand in the world of nature. So it shouldn't surprise us to learn that our neighbours, folk down our street, they share, at least implicitly, what we believe about the creator God. Like the nations and rulers in Psalm 2, they're not atheists.

SO WHY this revolt against God and God's Anointed, then and now?

Answer is in here in v 3... Let's break their chains! Throw off their fetters! We like the idea of a God who's in charge. What we don't like is his INTERFERENCE .. all the Thou shalt-nots...the prohibitions... the restraints... the rules... People me is negative! So after centuries of Christianity, following Christ, seeking to go by His rules for living, rules of love and justice and kindness and truth... people say it's all negative, anti-life. I want to say...You might try reading the sermon on the Mount. - Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who treat you badly... Try the Epistle to the Romans for size! chapter 12,13... full to bursting with positives. Live in harmony...don't be proud, don't repay evil for evil, be careful to do what is right in the eyes of all people, Humility, forgiveness, humility. kindness...

BUT The myth persists....Christianity is anti-life! It might be true but it's demanding, it challenges our selfishness. That's why our neighbours don't come to church any more.

BASICALLY we want to do our own thing. God will cramp your style.

And verse 5 the one in heaven laughs...Remember this is ALLEGLORY. To Him their threats are a joke - VANITY!! It's nothing new! Back in

the Garden of Eden paradise... LITERALLY OR ALLEGORICALLY ...
Satan whispers 'So God told you what you must not to do... That's
because He knows that when you do, you'll be like gods yourselves...
you'll be free. Come on BREAK OUT! And the woman looked... saw
that it was good...passed it on, and the rest is history. Man doing his
own thing. A kind of RELIGIOUS UDI.

Come down in history..mid 19th century... a poet, Algernon
Swinburne, on the crest of a wave of scientific humanism wrote his
parody of the Christmas carol...Glory to man in the highest, for man
is the master of things. God is defunct, or, at best irrelevant... Man
can manage quite well by himself..thank you very much.. And within
fifty years...under this alleged 'new man' come of age, the world was
pitched into a world war of unimaginable carnage, umpteen million
lost lives... So much for man's glory.

Come down twenty years... at it again...

in 2018 the prophets of emancipation are at it again... God is dead...
now you can enjoy life. Yet half the world lives on or below the
bread line...on the edge of A NEW COLD WAR...FOR DECADES we've
watching massive FAMINE, deprivation and hunger on our screens...
AND HALF THE WORLD POPULATION goes to bed hungry. Quickly
back to Psalm 2... (must conclude!!")

v 4,5 The ONE enthroned in the heavens has acted in the person of a
man. v 6 I have installed MY king in Zion.. Called KING OF KINGS.
The Lord's anointed, GREAT DAVID'S... Jesus. The SON! v, 7, 8 I will
make the nations your inheritance. We know who this is! Hebrews
1... THIS SON is both creator of everything..and HEIR to everything.
Paul writes about the Christians in Rome in chapter 8 verse ... we are
sons/daughters and heirs with him. Peter - you've been given new
life and an inheritance imperishable, unspoilt, reserved in heaven for

you who are safe in the power of God... They didn't deserve it any more than we do. But they have it, as we do, with the Holy Spirit as guarantee.

SONG ...The wealth in every mine is His and His alone, and he's a friend of mine, yes, He's a friend of mine, and He with me doth all thongs share, since all is Christ's and he is mine, why should I have a care, for Jesus is a friend of mine. And more than a friend. He loved me and gave Himself for me.

So KISS the Son, says the narrator. v12 Enjoy His embrace! v 13 Blessed is he/she who finds refuge in Him.

An old song... In my need Jesus found me, put His strong arms around me, brought me back home into the shelter of the fold.

Gracious Shepherd who sought me, Precious life-blood that bought me out of the night into the light, and night to God. Amen.