

Pastor Rains  
Matthew. 21, Psalm 2  
Rejection, Salvation, King

### **Events of the Triumphal Entry**

With you, the narrative unfolds. I must clarify that the account pertains to the Lord Jesus offering himself as the Messiah. The Lord had given Israel six days for labor, reserving the seventh day for worship, which they designated as the Sabbath. Consequently, the day following the Sabbath was considered the first day of the week, symbolizing a new beginning. It was on this day that the Lord offered himself to Israel as king, heralding a new kingdom and a fresh start. This event is recorded in Matthew 21.

*1Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."*

*4All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:*

*5"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
'Behold, your King is coming to you,  
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "*

*6So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!*

*'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'*

*Hosanna in the highest!"*

*10And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"*

*11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." NKJV*

I would like to commence at verse 1. As they drew near Jerusalem and arrived at Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, I would like to emphasize that this location is situated just across the crest of the Mount of Olives, on the eastern side, and is approximately two miles away by foot from Jerusalem's walls. Upon reaching Bethphage, Jesus dispatched two disciples, instructing them to proceed to the village opposite them and promptly locate a donkey tethered to a colt. They were to release the animals and bring them to Jesus. Should anyone object, they were to respond, "The Lord has need of them, and he will immediately send them." This action was undertaken to fulfill the prophecy spoken by the prophets, which states, "Tell the daughter of Zion, behold, your king is coming to you. Humble and seated upon a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." Consequently, the disciples executed Jesus's instructions and brought the donkey and the colt. They draped their garments over them and placed Jesus upon them. A vast multitude spread their garments along the road. Others cut down branches from the trees and laid them on the road. The multitudes who preceded and followed Jesus cried out, proclaiming, "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." Upon entering Jerusalem, the entire city was filled with awe and curiosity, inquiring, "Who is this?" The multitude responded, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

Matthew 21:12-17

*12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

*14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant 16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?"*

*And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read,*

*'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants  
You have perfected praise'?"*

*17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. NKJV*

Upon entering the temple of God, Jesus expelled all those engaged in commerce and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves. He declared, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.'" Subsequently, the blind and the lame approached him in the temple, and he healed them. However, when the chief priests and scribes witnessed the miraculous events and the children chanting "Hosannah to the son of David," they became incensed. They questioned Jesus, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus responded, "Yes. Have you not read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants, you have perfected praise?'"

Leaving the temple, Jesus proceeded to Bethany, a neighboring village. He lodged there, as Lazarus, Mary, and Martha resided there.

The narrative of Jesus offering himself on what is known as Palm Sunday is rooted in the Old Testament scriptures. Matthew presents quotes from Zechariah 9:9 and Psalms 118:24 and 26. These scriptures reveal the promise of God to send a king to Israel who would rule over them, bringing an era of peace, prosperity, and joy. The king was to be of the lineage of David, rule over Israel and all nations, descend from the Mount of Olives, enter the temple, and establish a glorious reign. Those who opposed him would be immediately disciplined.

## **Psalm 2**

The scriptures provide detailed accounts of these events. Now, there is a vast amount of scripture that speaks of his coming kingdom on earth. In fact, Bible scholars have identified over 2,000 prophecies that describe his return to the earth to establish his kingdom and rule over the earth for a thousand years. One section of the scripture, particularly the Psalms, contains numerous passages that speak of that glorious day. However, Psalm 2 provides an outline of God's approach to reveal the coming king and his kingdom. I invite you to turn with me to Psalm 2 and examine the insights it offers.

As we anticipate the rule of the King, Lord Jesus, on his throne, it is important to note that in the book of Acts, chapter 4, verse 25, God reveals that David is the author of this song. This is a testament to its divine inspiration.

Within this outline, there are six key points. I will provide you with each point in order. The first point is that there will be a rage against Christ, a display of hatred and rejection of him as king. This is explicitly stated in verses 1, 2, and 3.

Let me read those verses with you:

*“Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.”*

This first point establishes the presence of a rage against the King, the Messiah.

To further clarify this interpretation, I will read the explanation provided in Acts chapter 4, verse 25. This passage is spoken by Peter, who is addressing his audience after Jesus’ death and sharing how to apply these verses to his current situation.

*25who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:*

*‘Why did the nations rage,  
And the people plot vain things?  
26The kings of the earth took their stand,  
And the rulers were gathered together  
Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ NKJV<sup>1</sup>*

Please excuse me for any interruptions. At verse 25, the text reveals that David, through his servant, has spoken of the nations’ rage and the people’s futile plots. The kings of the earth have taken their stand, and the rulers have gathered against the Lord and his Christ. This is a clear indication that the unbelievers, including the Romans and the people of Israel, have united against Jesus, whom they have anointed both Herod and Pontius Pilate with.

In Acts 4:28, Jesus instructs his followers to do whatever their hand and purpose determined to be done. This implies that God’s intent was for the hatred of people to manifest against his Son, whom he would send due to his immense love for us. This hatred would torture and ultimately lead to his death, despite his sinlessness. This act was predetermined and served as a sacrifice for us.

The question arises: “Why would they rage against him?” The first fulfillment of this prophecy occurred at Jerusalem when Jesus was rejected and crucified. This is precisely what Peter is conveying to you.

It is important to understand that when God gives a prophecy, it may not have only one fulfillment. It could have a second, third, or even a fourth or fifth fulfillment. While I cannot recall any prophecies with four or five fulfillments, it is possible that God may use them to bring about parallel events in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter is using the LXX a Greek Translation of the Bible 200 BC. Reeves

However, we are certain that the first fulfillment of the prophecy of the rejection of the king occurred at Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified. There are additional aspects of this prophecy that extend beyond the crucifixion.

To further illustrate this, let us revisit Psalm 2 and examine some of its key words. In verse 3, the phrase “let us break their bands in pieces and cast away their cords from us” raises a question about its applicability to the circumstances surrounding Jesus’s descent from the Mount of Olives and his offer of himself as king. Jesus was not in control of the situation; he did not possess any bands or cords that would allow him to override everything and serve as the sole overseer of the laws and government with authority.

It is evident that this verse finds its first fulfillment in the rejection of the king, as recorded in Acts 4. However, it is necessary to look beyond this initial event to anticipate a future time when Christ will assume control and implement his rule. This will occur when he ascends to the throne and reigns over the world.

Indeed, this future event is imminent. It will transpire when Jesus returns and assumes his rule in his kingdom. Upon his return, he will not be greeted with welcome. Instead, the Antichrist, also known as the beast, will be in control of the world through the power of Satan. When Jesus returns, he will face opposition from their hatred and every effort to thwart his plans.

Despite this opposition, Jesus will bring his armies of angels and all the saints with him. They will engage in a formidable battle against all those who oppose them on the earth, resulting in a catastrophic conflict. However, it is important to note that every last one of the Antichrist’s army and all the ungodly individuals on the earth will be destroyed.

Thus, we witness a second occurrence of opposition to the king, as he establishes his kingdom. There is also a future reference to the breaking of their bands and the casting away of their cords when Christ is in control. This is indeed true. There will be a third time when this verse will find its fulfillment. When Christ establishes his kingdom, it will endure for 1,000 years. However, at the very end of his kingdom, Satan will be released from a prison that he has been confined to for a thousand years. During his brief release, he will deceive the nations and lead them against the Lord in Jerusalem. In other words, he will bring hordes of unbelievers, perhaps in the millions, to Jerusalem as a formidable opposing army filled with hatred. This will occur at the end of his thousand-year reign. However, despite their hatred, they will be reciting the exact words of Psalm 2, which reads: “Break their bonds in pieces and cast their cords away from us.” This verse perfectly describes their situation.

Unfortunately, they do not have the opportunity to fight, overpower Jesus, or crucify him as they did during the time of the Acts of the Apostles. They also do not have the chance to oppose him and engage in a terrible battle as he

returns to establish his kingdom. Despite their grand display of hatred at his rule, they are unable to do much.

To illustrate this, I will refer you to Revelation chapter 20 and show you how God swiftly eliminates this threat. Revelation chapter 20, verse 7, provides the exact timing of this event: “When a thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.”

It is interesting that the passage uses the past tense, suggesting that this is historical fact. However, God perceives everything as history because it will ultimately come to pass. He considers all events real and can speak of future occurrences as though they have already occurred. They will ascend the breadth of the earth and surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city, which is Jerusalem. By the millions, they will gather around Jerusalem. They will attempt to demonstrate their power and force by encircling the situation. However, the next sentence abruptly ends their efforts. Fire descended from God from heaven and consumed them. There was no battle; this time, no opposition. All the ungodly, marshaled by Satan to express their hatred for Christ, were instantly devoured by fire from heaven. They may desire to break his chains and chords, but they will not rule. The evil heart will not rule over God. God is the king, the judge, and His rule is infinite and perfect. It is eternal.

It is utterly foolish to oppose Him and believe that human force can compel Him to do what you desire. There will be subjection to the Lord, even in this moment when they are devoured by fire.

The verse 8 states that the devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. This summarily eliminates the devil’s influence. Subsequently, all the ungodly people must be judged. This leads us to the next verses, from eleven on through fifteen, where the judgment of all the ungodly of the earth is described. This orderly process encompasses everyone who has hated Christ, opposed Him, and sought to rule their own lives, determined to have life on their terms and eternity on their terms. They will have eternity by the way they have chosen.

The second point of this outline in Psalm 2 requires us to revisit Psalm 2. God’s response is characterized by laughter, indicating that they should believe they can disregard His word. This laughter is described in verse 4: *“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall hold them in derision.”* To gain a deeper understanding of this, we must turn to the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel. I understand that you will find it satisfactory. I would like to go to verse eight of chapter seven, if you please. If you have a good Bible, it is on page three hundred and seventy-five. All right. Second Samuel seven, verse eight. I

would like to read that for you so that you can understand God's perspective on how he has made certain declarations and why he can laugh that they would think they can disregard them. Now, here is what God has said: *Now therefore*, he is speaking to David, *thus shall you say to my servant David*, this is, by the way, his prophet. Nathan, I believe, he is instructing us to go to David and deliver these words to him.

*Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover, I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them that they may dwell in a place of their own. And move no more, nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them any more as previously.*

Now, let us examine that verse and comprehend when God says at the end, when he places his people in the land where he has promised them that they will be placed, they will move no more. I am aware that there are various forces against Israel today. The world has shown its hand, and the United Nations has backed them. You know, in what month was it, October? I think it was October, September, October. When they voted in a united manner to stand against Israel and their legitimate claim to the lands of God's inheritance. But God says they will move no more. However, he also speaks here that there will be a time when the sons of wickedness will oppress them no more. Well, they are still being oppressed today by the sons of wickedness. Now, we do not know which side that addresses. It means those who oppose Israel. That is God's label for them, the sons of wickedness. It is imperative that you align yourself with the correct path. However, there will come a day when they will no longer face opposition from others. You may be aware of this, for it is the day when Jesus returns and establishes his kingdom. This is the only time on Earth when you will have a nation of Israel in the Middle East, free from opposition from wicked individuals. While this may not be the case today, it is a promise that will come to fruition.

Since the time I commanded judges to govern my people, Israel, and have granted you peace from your enemies, the Lord has also promised you that he will make you a house. You may interpret this as a physical structure with walls, but the Lord is not referring to a house in that sense. He is speaking of a lineage, a family.

When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your ancestors, I will establish your descendants. This is what the Lord means by house. He will

establish his descendants after you, who will come forth from your body, in other words, it will be someone directly descended from David's lineage. A direct result of David's lineage. And I will establish his kingdom.

There is one coming from David's line whose kingdom God will establish. He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. This one will have an eternal throne. I will be his father, and he shall be my son.

Interesting. The son of God. If he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men and the blows of the sons of men. Well, the blows of the sons of men came against him, but he did not commit iniquity. He did in the eyes of men, but not in the eyes of God. He was sinless. However, my mercy shall not depart from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. This is God's promise. Can you imagine that men would come along and with their limited power try to destroy that promise and say, "No, it will not happen"? What is God's response? Psalm 2, verse 4, describes God's laughter, which is a response to the foolishness of humans who attempt to thwart divine plans. This is exemplified in verse 25 of 2 Samuel 7, where God promises to establish David's family forever and fulfill His word. David's actions align with this promise, as he vows to uphold God's word and ensure the enduring legacy of his descendants.

Psalm 89 further emphasizes the futility of human attempts to disregard divine plans. In verse 34, God declares that He will not break His covenant or alter His word. He also promises to uphold His oaths to David, ensuring the perpetual existence of his seed and the enduring nature of his throne.

The third point of the outline in Psalm 2 is the strong rebuke God delivers against mankind for their opposition. This rebuke is evident in verse 5, where God threatens to speak *to them in His wrath and distress them in His deep displeasure*.

The first instance of this rebuke is the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., which resulted in the worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people. This event serves as a clear demonstration of God's displeasure with the Jews.

The second instance of this rebuke occurs when Jesus returns to Earth. During this time, He will destroy all the ungodly forces of the Antichrist and all unbelievers on the face of the Earth. This act of destruction will establish His kingdom and serve as a final rebuke to those who oppose Him.

The third instance of this rebuke is when fire descends from God and destroys or consumes or dissolves all those who oppose Him at the end of His thousand-year reign. This act of destruction will serve as a final and decisive rebuke to those who resist His will.

Finally, let us consider the fourth point of the outline at verse 6.

*6“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.”*

*7“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

Despite the rejection of the king on Palm Sunday and his subsequent crucifixion, the establishment of the Messiah on the throne of David at Zion remains a divine promise. This promise is reiterated in Psalm 2, where God declares that Jesus is his son and has begotten him. He promises to grant Jesus the nations as his inheritance and the ends of the earth as his possession. Jesus is also promised the ability to break the nations with a rod of iron and dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. This passage emphasizes the submission of the entire earth to the king's rule. The promise in Psalm 2 is that the whole earth will be under the rule of the Messiah, the King.

*10Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

The sixth and final point of this outline is found in verses 10 through 12. In these verses, God instructs kings and judges of the earth to serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. He urges them to kiss the Son lest he be angry and perish in the way when his wrath is kindled but a little. Finally, God blesses all those who put their trust in him. In this passage, God extends a compassionate and gracious appeal to the people of this age, urging them to turn to Him before His return to establish His kingdom.

Before the catastrophic destruction of the ungodly on Earth, when He implements His plan, individuals have the present opportunity to serve Him, rejoice before Him with trembling, and embrace the Son. God declares that those who place their trust in Him are blessed. This is the time of grace, an opportunity for people to trust in Him, believe in Him, and yield to Him. According to His mercy, He grants individuals the chance to trust in Him, submit to Him, believe in Him, and place their faith in Him, allowing Him to rule in their hearts before He rules on the earth. God assures us that He will rule on the earth, and this will not be altered. While He will rule on the earth, the question remains whether He will rule in your heart. Only if you choose to let Him. This is your opportunity. Let the king be king in your heart first. If you do, God's promises will be fulfilled. You will be blessed with His presence, care, and

provision. You will be blessed as a part of His family and receive the promise of eternal life, which will last forever and ever. Put your trust in Him. He will rule. Let Him rule in your heart today.

Lord, thank you for your word and the immutability of your counsel. We know that these things will come to pass. However, thank you for this time of grace, this time of opportunity for men, women, boys, and girls to trust you as Savior. Thank you, Lord. You shall be king over all the earth. Lord, please help each one now. Ensure that they make you king of their lives, surrendering to you, rejoicing in you, yielding to you, and placing their trust in you. In your precious name, amen