

Cosmos, Chaos, and Christ Psalm 2 Pt. 1

By Charles Feinberg

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This study. Is On. Cosmos. Chaos and Christ in Psalm two. A study by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg dean emeritus and professor of Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary in La Mirada California. Some time ago. I came across. This statement by the great Greek Diogenes. He said bury me on my face when I die. When he was asked why he wanted such a strange request to be carried out he said because in a little while the world is going to be turned upside down. In a sense that prophecy has come true. We're living in a topsy turvy world a century of great confusion even while world leaders talk peace peace there planning sudden destruction frustration uncertainty and mistrust are on all sides. My dear friends. Psalm two to which we're going to be turning deals with just that Cosmos chaos and Christ. There was a Russian author by the name of Novikeow. He's the authority for this information. He said three thousand three hundred and fifty-eight years from 1496 B.C. to 1862 A.D. there were actually two hundred and twenty-eight years of peace.

And at the same time three thousand one hundred and thirty years of war. Within the last three centuries alone friends that have been 286 major and minor wars in Europe. From the year 1500 B.C. to 1860 A.D. more than 8000 treaties of peace each one of them that was meant to remain in force forever. 8000 treaties of peace were negotiated. The average time there remained in force was two years. One is reminded of that humorous exchange between two members of

the jury. One asks the other do you believe in capital punishment. The other said yes if it's not too severe. This lasting peace doesn't last very long. The average time these treaties of peace. Eight thousand of them that were supposed to be effective forever. The average time they remained in force was two years. Now the statistics of this Society of International Law at London have corroborated those of Novikow. They declared that during the last 4000 years there have been about two hundred and sixty-eight years of peace.

In spite of more than eight thousand peace trees it was the German Hagel. Who said we ask men to study history. The only thing that man learns from the study of history he said is that men have learned nothing from the study of history in that he's right. Wars always tend toward greater violence breed more and more war not peace. You hear the term Armageddon used so loosely even Theodore Roosevelt said at the convention of the short lived progressive party we you stand at Armageddon and we battle for the lord why is all this. Because the devil and his devilish forces have a definite part in gathering the nations for a final conflict. It was Lord George the great British statesman who said after the end of the hostilities in 1918 he asked was the devil slain in this last war. I have not seen the name of his Satanic Majesty in any of the published casualty lists.

It's evident friends that all wars of the end time tend to become ideological in the thought realm and they are religious in character. We grant you that competitive trade and political prestige and national survival all play their part. But all these issues are going to be increasingly caught up in larger matters of clashing ideological world programs and World orders. Gen. Douglas MacArthur said at the end of World War II it is now a question whether with all the technology with all the scientific progress the body can be saved and salvaged. Through the control and restraint of the spirit. The issues of the true faith and counterfeit Christendom and

anti-Christianity and heathenism these issues must sometime be resolved. And the moral bills the moral arrears of nations and governments and peoples have got to be finally liquidated when the great Gentile empires have fulfilled their purposes. Then the times of the gentiles will have run their course. And what will happen the harvest of the Earth being ripe will be reaped. A vivid Japanese proverb soon ripe soon rotten. The era friends that began at Jerusalem is going to move through the cycles to its consummation. Back to the very place where it began. Jerusalem. We mentioned Psalm 2.

Now there is such a close relationship between Psalm 1 and 2 that many have united them and place them as an introduction to the whole book of the Psalms. This Psalm two that we're going to see in our discussion of Cosmos the world chaos the opposite of Cosmos apt the absence of an orderly structure world and Christ what is going to be the interrelationship the interplay between these three entities these two entities and the personality of our Lord Jesus. We say that in the first Psalm we have a contrast of individuals, outlooks ways of life and finally destinies. In the second psalm we have a contrast of kingdoms and kings and loyalties and allegiances. The first Psalm begins with a blessing. Blessed is the man walks not in the Council of the wicked begins with the blessing ends with a wicked the way of the wicked Shall Perish Psalm two begins with the wicked the nation's raging and the peoples meditating a vain thing useless thing but it ends with blessing. Blessed are all they that take refuge in him we've come full circle blessed to the wicked from the wicked to the blessed.

This Psalm, friend, Psalm two twelve verses is amazingly distinctly prophetic and relative appropriate for our own day. Notice it has just 12 verses not a long psalm twice as many as psalm one. But these 12 verses are divisible into four parts. They're like four great canvases in a great art gallery. You have one picture in verses one to three on one part of the wall. Another

great masterpiece of a picture in the next verses four to six. Yet another wall we have seven to nine. Third picture and ten to twelve stanzas as it were. There's a fourfold division. That practically all have seen who have studied this wonderful wonderful passage. What do we have in the first three verses. Let me read these first three verses. Why do the nation's rage and the peoples? That's the peoples of the earth. Nations meditate a vain thing. The kings of the Earth set themselves the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed saying let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their cords from us verses one to three. What do we have here. Somebody speaking. Every one of these stanzas you will find a voice. There is a definite declaration in all of these four great masterpieces.

The first is in verses one to three the voice of the nations the voice of the nations. And what is the content of their statement. What are they trying to convey to us? We we have here the cry and rebellion of the nations. We believe that is an accurate correct characterization of what those nations are trying to say. Notice the first verse asks Why do the nations rage and the peoples meditate a vain thing. Now the picture here is of the nations raging in unprecedented confusion and turmoil. There is a roaring like the sea in its raging how mighty is the sea. How uncontrollable is the ocean and the sea in its roaring and raging is a picture of the nation? Somehow they've gotten out of their dull sleepy lethargic insensate condition. There's something that has them up to a white heat. Of rage. They will not be stilled someone has excited them. Someone has incited them compelling and propelling them compelling them. Here they are. They are the nations of the world and the scripture says they are meditating they are devising their plotting out a vain thing. What is the vain thing? It's a thing that will not succeed. Now that's different than the meditation in Psalm one the godly man's delight is in the law the Lord and on His law doth he meditates day and night day and night.

Here the ungodly are meditating day and night but not on the law of the Lord they are devising something that will never succeed. It will not as we say today get off the launching pad. It will not succeed and the psalmist, by a rhetorical question which is a question that does not need even an answer. The answer is understood the question. He asks is one that reveals that he perceives by the mind of the Spirit of God. The uselessness the worthlessness the baseless folly of all this rebellion of all this activity Oh we haven't been told yet what it is that they're raging about. We haven't been told yet what they're meditating that's so far from possible success. Here it is all in Verse 2. It's the kings of the Earth set themselves the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed. If this were not in the Bible friends we would have a good reason to disbelieve it. But it's in the Bible in God's word and we must believe it. It's true. The kings of the earth revealed this as a confederacy. It's world embracing and it's instigated by the rulers of the world.

Now it's not something that somebody by some superior oratory just railroaded them into as we say today. No it's this colossal confederacy that has gone into it deliberately determined they've set themselves means they have taken position deliberately decisively and they have taken counsel together. This has all been blueprinted. Everything has been thoroughly premeditated and thought out and planned beforehand. Now I want to ask a question here. How is it that these nations are raging so and these peoples entering into such a futile activity? When you say well you've already just said that the kings of the earth are the head of this. They are the promoters. They are the leaders they are the rulers are the councilor. Yes, and God has given them graciously rule over others. And look how they are behaving themselves with this wonderful wonderful privilege. God has given them the rulers take counsel together. How did

that ever come about the nations I understand now have been incited and excited to do this rebellious act this rebellious scene.

They've come on it by the Kings. But who has been the motivating force behind the Kings. Well you'll not find it in Psalm two, you have to pair with it the truth given in Revelation 16 verses twelve through sixteen. There you'll find who it is who it will be that will be behind this cry and rebellion of the nations against the living God. The sixth Angel poured out his bowl upon the great river the river Euphrates and the water there was dried up that the way might be made ready for the Kings that come from the sun rising from the east far east and I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet there Satan the dragon. The beast is the political leader the false prophet is the Antichrist the religiously the three unclean spirits. Ah. They are behind all these as it were frogs. It doesn't say they are frogs but as it were frogs. What's their purpose? They are spirits. How do you identify them? Their spirits of demons working signs sign working or miracle working demon spirits. Can they do that.

The Bible says distinctly and you read the books of the Gospels four Gospels and you'll find that there are demons spirits the spirits of demons working signs and they're at it today already which go forth unto the kings of the whole world. To gather them together unto the war of the great day of God the Almighty. Behold I come as a thief he says parenthetically, thus he it is that watch it keep with his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame the godly remnant of that coming day and the tribulation are told to watch themselves. And then he says and they gathered them who gathered whom they are of that evil trio. That evil triumvirate those three the gruesome threesome gathered them them are the kings there it is kings of the whole world. Well those are the very Kings spoken of here in Psalm two two the kings of the

Earth set themselves the rulers take counsel together. So that's that's the situation. Those demon spirits are behind them.

Yes, and they gathered them these demon demon spirits gather these kings and rulers together. The place which is called the Hebrew Har Megiddon Mount of Megiddo mount of cutting off mount of slaughter. Ah there it is. Well what is this so blasphemous. Why is this so death dealing? Why is this such a terminal thing. Because all their counsels all their venom all their poison all their clenched fists are against the Lord and against his anointed. That's Mashiach against God's Messiah. Ah that's the objective of their council. At long last the world has decided that enemy number one enemy number two of the universe our God the Father and God the Son is against the Lord and his messiah thy defy God and his son. How senseless how insane how absolutely deranged must the world be but it's getting there and getting there fast. Let us break their bonds asunder, here's their cry. This is what they say. They're still talking. They set themselves against the Lord and against his anointed and while they do that they want to express themselves they want to tell what their objective is. Let's break their bonds asunder.

The restraint of God and cast away their cords from us they can't bear the blessed restraint of God well we know from Romans 8:7 that the mind of the flesh the carnal mind is enmity is hatred against God not subject to the law of God. Neither indeed can it be. You can't just beat it into submission. No. They can't bear the blessed restraint of God. They want to throw off all the rule of God all responsibility to him. Well they're not bonds to the believer Matthew 11:30, His yoke is easy his burden is light. They're not bonds, no more are they such to a believer in breathing the spirit of throwing off restrained can be seen in a measure in the home life of today in the community life of our land. In the teachings of our universities and how sad they are with their materialistic philosophies and psychologies of the day selling it to young people

robbing them of all hope. Of all prospect for the future. Leaving them bereft of any kind of an objective and motivation in the world. And this same spirit of throwing off restraint is seen in governmental policies of nations whether it's a Russia or a Germany or so many others who are standing with them in their anti-God defiance they defy God and all that is his they say so what atheism what God defiance and opposition you have in the world today they will have nothing to do with God or what stands for them.

Think of Germany for instance thinking particularly now of East Germany who has continued in the communist camp in their atheism. A Germany that gave us a Luther and a reformation. Men of true piety and godliness gone back to brazened paganism unheard of in our day. Blasphemies such ridicule of God. Such statements concerning him that we dare not contaminate our lips. And our minds with uttering them putting everything they can themselves in the place of the true God. That's the trend today. It certainly is you can't mistake it but it's going to be fully manifest in all this blasphemy and blatant defiance in the period ahead of us in the time of the Tribulation when the nations are going to come in open conflict against God. Revelation 19:19 what an awful thing for man whose breath is in his nostrils to defy the living God. Goliath did in David's Day but oh how that little man of God triumphed over Goliath slew him and beheaded him. You know as well as I do that many systems and movements today are causing great anxiety to the people of God. They know they are contrary to the mind of God. They know they're in opposition to the Lord. And yet they can't understand.

They keep asking us why they are progressing why they're spreading why they're prospering why they seem to be doing so well. Remember friends when Perry the British Arctic explorer tried to reach the North Pole. He found out that the ice flows the ice blocks on which he was journey drifted southward faster than he and his companions walked north so that at the end

of a long day's march when they took their bearings again. They found themselves four miles farther away from their destination than they were in the morning just seemed as if they were making progress. That's the way it is with all who will fight against and oppose God. There you have it the first three verses now. If there were just three verses in this psalm. There are some verses that have just three verses. There are there's one Psalm 117 that has two verses but if this psalm had only three verses. Oh how some men will allow their eloquence to go forth their imagination to run even riot. Why? Oh they would be saying that God would be issuing orders here to the angelic forces and the Cherubim and to Gabriel the mighty one and to Michael the Archangel to keep the ranks and to fight. No no.

Whereas in verses one two three will have the voice of the nations the cry and rebellion of the nations and verses four to six. We have the chastisement the punishment and rebuke from the father. We read in verses 4 to 6 he that sitteth in the heavens will laugh the Lord will have them in derision then will speak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet I've set my king upon my Holy Hill of Zion. What is he saying here? He that sitteth in the heavens with a scene like that on earth you'd suppose would you not. That there would be great commotion great consternation in heaven but when you gaze there all is pervaded with the utmost calm and serenity and composure God still sits in the heavens. He doesn't even have to rise to deal with the rebels and the verb there sitteth in the original is such that it means that's his customary position. That's what he's doing now. God who sits in the heavens. Will laugh he doesn't have to change position. He doesn't have to rise to deal with the rebels. He doesn't have to issue orders but he does something strangely ominous and fearful. He laughs.

There are not many places in the Bible where you read a laugh as a noun or a verb where God is related to it but when God laughs at defiance we may be sure the destruction is at hand

the Lord sees it all is beyond it all. He views these proceedings with contempt and scorn. Someone has well said or what must God's frowns be if his smiles are so terrible. But verse five he does more than just sit and laugh and just derisive. The Lord will have them in derision. There are going to be certain outward marks of his displeasure. What does he do. He vexes them in his sore displeasure. The Lord does more than laugh I say and deride to show his displeasure Isaiah 63:1-3. He treads out the wine press of his wrath of the nations of the nations that he tramples there's no one with him because they are the objects of his wrath.

There are outward manifestations in judgments and inflictions that make clear the severity of God's wrath. Just notice judgments of revelation. Chapter 6 through 18. They fulfill that word the vexings of God on his enemies in centuries past have been real read it in history and they are going to be in the future. One man looked up the history of the early church and he gives us this information that of 30 Roman emperors governors of provinces other high officials. Ones who distinguished themselves by their zeal and bitterness in persecuting Christ and early Christians one of them became speedily deranged after an atrocious cruelty. One was slain by his own son one became blind the eyes of one started right out of his head and if you don't think that's impossible. Ask a physician. One was drowned. One was strangled. One died in a miserable captivity. One fell dead in a manner that won't bear reciting. One died of so loathsome hateful a disease that several of his physicians had to be put to death. They couldn't abide the stench that filled his room. Two of them committed suicide.

Among those were among those that committed suicide was Pilate, Pontius Pilate. Two of them committed suicide a third attempted it but had to call for help to finish the work. Five were assassinated by their own people or servants. Five others died. The most miserable and excruciating death several of them had untold complications of diseases. Eight were killed in

battle or after they were taken prisoner among those who were slain was Julian the Apostate rightly called the apostate. He was the apostate nephew of Constantine the Great. He had been studying with atheistic teachers it's said unknown to Constantine. But in the days of his prosperity Julian is said to have pointed his dagger to heaven defying the son of God. He commonly called him the Galilean but when he was wounded in battle hear it he saw that all was over with him he gathered up his clot of blood and threw it into the air with his last desperate strength and said Thou has conquered Oh Thou Galilean.

My Bible and yours says it's an awful thing to fall into the hands of the living God for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 10:31. And 12:29. And verse 6. We read yet in spite of all that men do to hinder it yet they may oppose it. Yet I have said he speaks of the things that are not as though they were. Time is just an accommodation to God in His plans it's as good as done. Despite all opposition to the contrary human demonic satanic Christ is going to rule on Zion as God's appointed king. There will be no disappointment to his appointment as Gabriel said the Lord God is going to give unto him his blessed son and the son of the Virgin and God the Son the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David he should rule over the House of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there shall be no end. What are we seeing here? We're seeing cosmos the orderly structured world that created world becomes suddenly chaos turned against God. [inaudible] and Christ the anointed one the redeemer and Christ is going to step in. We're going to see that in this next division in verses 7 to 9. [End]