

Why Did/Do the Heathen Rage?

Psalm 2:1 and Acts

INTRODUCTION:

What does the bible say about the heathen?

Psalm 2:1

Why do the **heathen rage**, and the people imagine a vain (*useless*) thing?

Acts 4:25

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the **heathen rage**, and the people imagine vain things?

- ✓ You see here in the scriptures the reference to the past tense of what the Prophet David had said would come, which is quoted again by Luke in Acts 4:25.
- ✓ This is a reference to the heathen and why they are against God.
- ✓ Psalm 2 spoke of Jesus, and so does Acts 4.

Psalm 2 King James Version (KJV)

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

1. This statement was made by the heathen.
2. They thought that they could get away from God, and away from his rules and his presence. They did not like the fact that they would have to obey someone, or a god, placing restrictions upon them.
3. **But...as God said....the people imagine such a vain thing? Did they really think that they could escape God?**
4. That is why in verse 4 it says that..... He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision (*contempt*).
5. God will hold them and all unbelievers accountable for their actions.
6. It's not just people who are against God? It is also governments and rulers.... that are against God.
7. It's not just heathen people, but the governments are the ones behind and funding these heathen people. Think of all the laws against God that they create.....abortion, homosexuality, adultery....same sex marriage....divorce. etc...

⁴ **He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh:** the LORD shall have them in derision.

⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

⁶ **Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.**

⁷ **I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**

⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

¹⁰ Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

1. Listen....God is not mocked?

2. The heathen will be given into Gods hands for an inheritance. That inheritance will be hell.

3. Like the scripture says.....⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

4. The vain thing that the heathen imagines.....is that they think that they cannot be reached by God. They think they are untouchable.

5. But the warning to them in Psalm 2:11 is that they should rather..... Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling!

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

¹² **Kiss the Son,** lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. **Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**

1. In the OT it was told by God (the Lord) that there would come a time when the heathen would rage.

2. This specific event was at the time of Jesus Crucifixion, when the whole nation and all the kings and their governors sought to come against Gods anointed and put him to death.

✓ In Acts 4 we see the gospel of Jesus being preached, and we see the heathen raging at who Jesus is. They did not want to hear the word of God.....neither did they want it to be preached to others.

✓ In many countries the word of God today is banned.

So when we read Acts 4, we can see that the same problems then are the same problems we face now. And that is people do NOT want to believe in the true God.

- ✓ So in Acts 4 we see the reference back to Psalm 2, which is the Psalm written by David.

This is then referenced back to the OT where again David had said that there would come a time when they would crucify the anointed of the Lord.

1. And now in Acts 4, those who are proclaiming the name of Jesus were now also being exposed to the same raging heathen..... that had taken place when they crucified Jesus.
2. It is becoming more and more evident that they governments and the unbelievers are becoming more and more “violent” against the Christian believer.
3. God’s “Word” is being more and more referred to as “Hate Speech”.
4. And many people and even ministers of the gospel are fearful of these people and governments and so are toning down the message of the Lord.

Acts 4:23-31

²³ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

²⁴ And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

²⁵ **Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?**

²⁶ **The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.**

²⁷ **For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,**

²⁸ **For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

²⁹ **And now, Lord, behold their threatenings**: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

³⁰ **By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.**

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, **and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

1. The heathen always fears when the Word of God is spoken.
2. That’s the reason why they fear.
3. They don’t fear “YOU” – but they are fearing the “WORD OF GOD”.

4. That's why in Acts 4 they were told to "shut up the Word of God".
5. That's why "the new modern bible versions" have no power.
6. They to user friendly.
7. They accommodate the heathen nicely. For instance there is no sodomy mentioned in the NIV anymore.

✚ These two quotations of scripture in Psalm 2 and Acts 4 prove that Jesus is Lord.
 ✚ Because they call the him the creator of heaven and earth.

- ✓ Who created the earth as we know? – It was Jesus (John 1:1-3).
- ✓ And Colossians 1:13-20

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

¹⁴In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

¹⁵Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷**And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church: **who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead**; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

²⁰And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

John 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God.

³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- ✓ **Acts chapter 3**:25-26 was the promise from God. That Jesus saves.

²⁵ Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

²⁶ **Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus**, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

- ✓ Acts 3 is also the chapter that reminds the heathen of what they did to Gods Son. They denied Him then and they deny Him now.

Acts 3: ¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵ And killed the Prince of life, whom **God hath raised from the dead**; whereof we are witnesses.

✚ Acts Chapter 4 was the confirmation that persecution would still be in the world.

1. It is the chapter that tells us that the heathen did not like Gods judgment and pure rules to be put upon them.
2. And the heathen certainly does not like Gods rules now.

Check out Luke 19....

Luke 19: verse 14 & verse 27. This is a parable that Jesus used to show that there are people who don't want him to rule over them.and how does that end.....well lets look at verse 27.....they get slayed.

¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

²⁷ But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

3. In this illustration of the parable, God shows that we are all his citizens. God owns everything. We are not at liberty to deny the one who created us.
4. The heathen who are enemy's of God will be slayed.

✚ If the heathen thinks like it is said in Psalm 2:3.....**Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.** That is impossible. God is the creator and he owns and rules over us.

✚ The heathen thinks that he can break away from the bands or bonds (handcuffs) of God.

So why do the heathen rage.....

Revelation 11: 16-18

¹⁶ And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, ¹⁷ Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty,

which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

1. The nations are angry because it is god who is control.
 2. The nations are angry because they are being judged.
 3. The heathen are angry because they are being judged.
- ✓ They were angry because they did not want Christ to rule of them.
 - ✓ They hate having their wickedness exposed. They love their sin.

John 7: ⁷The world cannot hate you; **but me it hateth**, because **I testify of it**, **that the works thereof are evil.**

4. The world hates God, because he testifies of their evil works. That's why they crucified Jesus.
- ✓ Another reason why the Heathen rage is found in John 3.

John 3:18-21 ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

1. The heathen rages because they love evil.
2. Men love darkness rather than light.
3. The heathen, love to remain a heathen because they love their sin. They love their evil deeds.
4. They don't want to be told what they can and cant do.
5. And because of that they will not want anyone preaching a message that is going to expose them for their evil deeds.

The heathen rages.....when you confront them with the Word of God. They cant stand the light.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....