

The King Installed On High

Psalm 2:6-9

Charlie Brackett

The first part of this psalm tells of the arrogance of nations and kings and rulers of earth in their attempt to throw off God's rule. They trust in their own authority as if they, not God, were its source. They think they are subject to no one. God's answer to them is in verse 6, "*I have installed My king upon Zion, My holy mountain.*" He, of course, speaks of Jesus the Christ for verse 7 goes on to quote Christ. "*I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee.'*"

December 25th is celebrated by much of the world as the birthday of Jesus Christ. His birth began a short period of human history in which God came to dwell among men and the impact of His coming has been so profound that it is impossible to judge the course of history without His having come. The only begotten Son of God came to dwell with men! The thought is beyond comprehension! But this 2nd Psalm tells us something about the begetting of Jesus that ought to cause us to pause for serious reflection. When did He become the only begotten Son of the Father? Was it on the day of His human birth, whatever day on the calendar that was?

The Psalm says, "*Today I have begotten Thee.*" When, Lord? Some might be surprised to learn that His day of birth was not the day spoken of here. It was the day of His resurrection. Notice the context. Psalm 2 draws a contrast between human rule on earth and God's rule in the kingdom of heaven. Verse 6 indicates that God had installed His king on His holy mountain. In verse 8 we learn that He will give His Son the nations as a kingdom and in verse 9 that He will rule them with a rod of iron, that is, with great authority.

Christ was raised to that throne, the throne of David, on the day He was resurrected from the grave. Acts 2:30, 31 confirm that fact where, speaking of King David, it says, "*..because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Christ,..*" And Acts 13:33 makes clear the day He was begotten. Listen. "*.. He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; Today I have begotten Thee.'*" He was raised the only begotten Son of the Father on the day He took that throne.

Every other event in the life of the Savior - His birth, His life, His ministry, and the purpose for His coming - takes its meaning from the fact that He was raised from the dead. His resurrection gave proof to the claim that He was divine, the only begotten Son of God. Let us celebrate this day as the Lord instructed, i.e., remembering his death and resurrection in taking the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper.