

## WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE?

Many people are concerned about the Middle East right now. Tension has been building, and there have even been acts of aggression. Times like these cause some to fear, while others may respond more retributively. People are calling for peace, and others are demanding action, retaliation. Most are probably wondering if these types of things will ever end.

The second psalm presents the nations in an uproar. For this article, we will focus on verses 1-3, *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."* (ESV)

Why do we fight? Why can't the people of the world get along with each other? It comes down to the fact that we look to ourselves for strength and direction. Verse 2 says the kings "set themselves." Humans keep trying to do things on their own. We group ourselves according to ethnic, geographical, and political similarities. Then, we create structures and community standards that benefit our own group sometimes to the detriment of other groups.

From the very beginning, the LORD (Yahweh) asked humans to trust in him. He knows what is best. He wants what is best for humanity. Nevertheless, humans decided not to trust him, but rather decided that they (we) could figure out what is best on their (our) own.

One of the major problems with that is what I decide is best for me may not be what you have decided is best for you. How do we resolve this? Well, when I'm trusting in myself, I will group together with others who are of the same opinion in order to strengthen my position and get the results that I am seeking. If you do the same, then the situation escalates and could end very badly.

"Man's inhumanity to man" is a consequence of not trusting the LORD and following his instructions.

Greg Surles