

Thoughts for the week 1 – Psalms 1 and 2:-

At the beginning of the Book of Psalms, the first two are probably meant as an introduction to the first part – Psalms 1 – 41. This section closes with the doxology at Psalm 41, verse 13.

Psalm 1 - The two ways of life:-

This Psalm presents a sharp contrast between two extremes – the truly righteous way of life and the basically wicked way. This introduces the two categories of men to be described throughout the Psalter.

Psalm 2 – The Victory of God’s Messiah:-

Basically a ‘Royal Psalm’ which speaks of Messianic hopes for the future. As Psalm 1 deals with the two ways for an individual’s life, so Psalm 2 sets forth two ways for nations and peoples. Reading this Psalm in the light of the New Testament we see the Messiah as truly the Son of God as well as the King of Israel. In verses 10 – 12 the choice is laid before the rulers of the nations; “*be wise; be warned . . .*”. Remember the words of 2 Peter chapter 2 and chapter 3, verses 3 – 13. Although it seems that the wicked ‘get away with it’ judgement will come. The only safe place to be is “*to take refuge in Him*”.

Thoughts for prayer:-

As Christians our witness to individuals is a given. How far, and how can we witness to ‘the rulers of the nations’? Prayers for our King and government are ‘built in’ to Morning and Evening Prayer and the service of Holy Communion. Worth remembering is that there are other suitable prayers to be found in the Prayer Book immediately after The Litany.

Always remember that “*The Lord is King, be the people never so impatient: He sitteth between the cherubims, be the earth never so unquiet.*” Psalm 99 verse 1, in the book of Common Prayer.

Terry Brighton 7 / 8 / 2025