

What Makes God Laugh

BY PASTOR DAVID GUZIK



He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

Psalm 2:4

We don't often think of God as laughing, but the Bible says He does. The God presented in the Scriptures isn't depressed, and He isn't filled with fear or anxiety. God has the settled confidence that He both knows and controls the future. Plus, when God sees mankind—in both his glory and his foolishness—He must often smile.

Psalm 2 speaks of God laughing because men think they can plot and work against Him with any hope of success. The first few verses of the Psalm read:

“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.’”

Psalm 2:1-3

As King David wrote this Psalm (Acts 4:25-26 demonstrates that David authored it), he thought of how strange it is that people rage against God. They have no reason to rage against God, and they gain no benefit from it. Even though men band themselves together against God, it gives no better chance against Him. Worst of all, they think of God and His Messiah as bondage-bringers. They say, ***“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”*** This shows how irrational their rage is, because God is a bondage-breaker, not a bondage-bringer.

What is God's response to the rage of the nations, and their plotting against Him? ***“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh”*** (verse 4a). God looks at the way men plot against Him, and He laughs. God isn't afraid or confused about the opposition of man; He laughs at it. Why?

Because He *sits in the heavens*. This phrase contains two reasons why God laughs: *how* He rules, and *where* He rules from—the heavens. By sitting, God demonstrates that He reigns as the Great King who has no fear of losing His authority. He is not pacing back and forth, concerned that someone will do something He cannot prevent. The Lord is not worried, and He has never had a panic attack. He rules in perfect peace and assurance. When men rage and plot against God, He does not fret; He simply laughs.

Second, God laughs because of the location from which He rules: *in the heavens*. It isn't an earthly, temporary throne He occupies; it is the permanent and abiding throne of heaven. He has authority over all creation, and His rule can't be toppled. What does heaven have to fear from earth?

Please notice that God does not laugh at the suffering of humankind, or even at their suffering as a result of sin. Instead, God laughs at the proud man or woman who thinks so highly of him- or herself that this person fights against God and seeks to prevent His will. God shows all sympathy and compassion for the suffering. It is only the rage of mankind against heaven that causes Him to laugh—rather than to fear or worry.

Verse 4 concludes, ***“The Lord shall hold them in derision.”*** Through the centuries, many people have opposed God and His kingdom. Each one of these opponents has been frustrated and crushed—as they will be forevermore. In every generation there are arrogant voices that think they have put the last nail in a coffin to bury the church. It will not happen, and God simply laughs.

A famous example of an opponent of Christianity was the Roman Emperor Diocletian (AD 245-313). He was one of the last great open enemies of the church in the days of the Roman Empire. He was such a determined enemy of Christians that he persecuted the church mercilessly and believed he had actually defeated

God looks at the way men plot against Him, and He laughs. God isn't afraid or confused about the opposition of man.

Christianity. He was so confident that he built two monuments on the frontier of his empire with these inscriptions:

“Diocletian Jovian Maximian Hercules Caesares Augusti for having extended the Roman Empire in the east and the west and for having extinguished the name of Christians who brought the Republic to ruin.”

“Diocletian Jovian Maximian Hercules Caesares Augusti for ... having everywhere abolished the superstition of Christ [and] for having extended the worship of the [Roman pantheon of] gods.”¹

Really, Diocletian? You extinguished Christianity? You defeated the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Not quite. ***“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh.”***

Diocletian is dead and gone, but the fame and glory of Jesus Christ is spread over all the earth. Multiplied millions have given their lives for the Name and Gospel of Jesus, while Diocletian is barely remembered. What was true of Diocletian is true of all those who set themselves against God: ***“The Lord shall hold them in derision.”*** ☞

David Guzik directed CC Bible College in Siegen, Germany, for seven years. He is now senior pastor of CC Santa Barbara, CA. He has served in pastoral ministry for twenty years and has authored several Bible commentaries.
www.enduringword.com

¹Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Treasury of David*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1976.