

decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." God has established Christ to be the Leader and Commander of all His people. In verse 5, as in Psalm 2:7-8, He addresses Him directly. In this case He is not, as in the 2nd Psalm, pointing mainly to the material victory which Christ is to win over all the world at the beginning of the Millennium, but is referring more particularly to the outgoing of the Gospel and to the coming of nations which had no connection with Him in His earthly ministry, to believe on Him and to become parts of the Church of Christ. While it is possible, of course, to consider the verse as continuing on in its fulfillment and eventually including the activities of the Millennium, its main stress is certainly on the call of Christ as it goes out in this age to many nations with which He had made no direct connection during His earthly ministry. Nations of whom the Jews in Palestine at that time had not even heard would later become prominent parts of the Church of God, because the Lord would glorify His Son (end of v. 5). Compare John 17:5: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

In verses 6 and 7 the Gospel invitation is repeated but this time with specific emphasis upon the feature of pardon. Verses 1 and 2 did not address the listeners as unrighteous or wicked. Reference was simply made there to the hunger for something real which is found in every human heart. Now, however, the specific notes of departure from sin and of need of God's pardon are stressed. This is vital to the Gospel and no call to salvation is ever complete without it. Yet it is not always necessary to begin at this point. Often the Gospel call may, as in this chapter, begin with an appeal to the heart hunger of the listener rather than with a specific call for repentance and a specific pointing out of sin.

In verse 6 the English word "while" is a rather free translation. Literally the Hebrew reads: "Seek ye the Lord, in his being found, call ye upon Him in his being near." Such Hebrew phrases are often used to express the time in which something occurs, but may also indicate the reason for its occurrence. The verse does not necessarily mean, as the