

Thought for the Day 15th June - John Reed

Read Psalm 2

I don't watch 60 minutes, so I missed the story that it ran last night, and only read it this morning in the papers as the situation unfolded. I'm speaking of the allegations – backed up by lengthy surveillance and recordings – that a minister in the Victorian government has been gaining and wielding power through branch (and therefore vote) stacking. The allegations include that he handed over thousands of dollars in secret cash drop-offs and used political advisers to stack branches with fake members. He allegedly boasted that not only did he control the Labour party in Victoria, and that the next Premier would be doing his bidding, but that he also was gaining control of the party at the federal level, saying: "Who'll protect Albo?" (a reference to Anthony Albanese, the current federal leader of the opposition). Now, it must be stressed that at this point these are merely allegations, yet to be proven in a court of law (if it comes to that). Nonetheless, the man concerned has now resigned his position in cabinet.

Now, this is far from the first time there has been such allegations involving improper activities in the pursuit of power on all sides of politics, whether it be by branch stacking, gerrymandering, or huge "donations." But it is sad when people plot and manipulate to subvert the political process in order to gain power and undermine or overthrow legitimate leaders and authorities.

On a cosmic scale, this Psalm reminds us, that is happening all the time too. The nations rage, the peoples plot, and the rulers take counsel together. Against whom? Against the Lord and his Anointed. Against God, the creator and rightful ruler of the universe, and his Chosen One, his appointed King.

Now, at the time this was written it was perhaps a reflection on how the nations around them plotted and conspired against Israel and her king (I want to assume that this was David, but we're not actually told who it was at this point). But the Psalm also transcends that one particular point in time, and by the time we get to the New Testament this Psalm is quoted several times as a prophetic description of the world's rejection of God's Son Jesus. It is Jesus of whom the Lord says "You are my Son, today I have begotten you" (verse 7, see Hebrews 1:5); and it is Jesus who will "break them with a rod of iron" (verse 9; see Revelation 2:7; 13:5; 19:15).

The foolishness of rebelling against God is spelled out here. You seem to get away with it for a while, but it will always end in disaster.

The proper response is to come to your senses and "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled" (verse 12). Or, as Jesus himself says in John 5:22-23, the Father has given all judgment to the Son: "That all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."