

Psalms 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Analysis

This verse marks a dramatic shift—from earthly conspiracy (vv. 1-3) to God's response (vv. 4-6). The emphatic **'Yet'** (wa'ani, 'but I') contrasts human plotting with divine action. Despite all earthly rebellion, God has acted decisively and unilaterally. The perfect tense **nasak** (set, installed, established) indicates completed action—the king's appointment is an accomplished fact, not future possibility or tentative plan.

The designation **'my king'** emphasizes personal divine ownership and appointment. This is not democracy or human selection but theocratic installation. The location **'my holy hill of Zion'** is doubly significant: geographically referring to Jerusalem's temple mount, theologically representing God's dwelling place and center of worship. The adjective 'holy' (qodesh) indicates separation unto God—this is sacred space where heaven and earth intersect.

Christologically, this verse prophesies Christ's exaltation and enthronement. Though crucified by earthly powers, God raised and exalted Him (Philippians 2:9-11). The heavenly Zion now represents Christ's eternal reign (Hebrews 12:22-24, Revelation 14:1). The New Jerusalem, the eschatological Zion, will be His throne forever. Human rejection cannot nullify divine appointment—a truth that sustained early Christians facing imperial persecution.

Historical Context

Zion originally referred to the Jebusite fortress David conquered, becoming the City of David and eventually synonymous with Jerusalem's temple mount. Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah, traditionally identified with Zion, making it the focal point of Israel's worship and God's earthly presence. The phrase 'holy hill of Zion' evoked Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh, His choice of Jerusalem as His dwelling, and the Davidic covenant promising an eternal dynasty (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

For ancient Israelites, this declaration affirmed God's sovereign choice of both king and capital despite external threats. When Assyrians, Babylonians, or other enemies threatened Jerusalem, this psalm reminded believers that God's king ruled by divine decree, not human permission. The historical David's establishment on Zion foreshadowed the greater David—Messiah—whose reign extends beyond earthly Jerusalem to encompass all creation. The early church saw Christ's resurrection as His installation as King, with Pentecost marking the beginning of His spiritual reign from the heavenly Zion.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign installation of His king provide assurance when facing opposition or apparent defeat in Christian witness?
2. What is the theological significance of Christ's kingdom being identified with Zion—both earthly Jerusalem and heavenly reality?
3. In what ways does Christ's exaltation 'yet' happen despite human rejection, and what does this reveal about divine sovereignty?
4. How should believers balance earthly political engagement with the recognition that Christ alone is God's appointed King?

5. What comfort does the 'holy hill of Zion' imagery provide regarding God's presence with His people and ultimate vindication?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי	נָס כְּתִי	מֶלֶךְ י	עַל	צִיּוֹן	הַר	קֹדֶשׁ:
H589	Yet have I set	my king	H5921	of Zion	hill	upon my holy
	H5258	H4428		H6726	H2022	H6944

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:1 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Psalms 45:6 (Kingdom): Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Ephesians 1:22 (Parallel theme): And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 12:22 (Parallel theme): But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Psalms 89:27 (Kingdom): Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

Psalms 78:68 (Parallel theme): But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

Psalms 50:2 (Parallel theme): Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.