

Season in the Psalms: Psalm 72 – Praising the Perfect King

Psalm 72

Of Solomon.

- ¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- ² May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

- ⁸ May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ⁹ May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.
- ¹² For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
- ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
- ¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

¹⁵ Long may he live!

May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him
and bless him all day long.

¹⁶ May grain abound throughout the land;
on the tops of the hills may it sway.

May the crops flourish like Lebanon
and thrive like the grass of the field.

¹⁷ May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.

Then all nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.

¹⁸ Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvellous deeds.

¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

²⁰ This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

Introducing the Psalm

This Psalm is both a royal psalm originally prayed for a reigning king, and a celebration and praising of God's Messiah King. King Solomon teaches God's people how to pray for God's king *and* what kind of king for his people to pray for. It is a psalm glorious fulfilled in Jesus as Messiah King.

Verses 1-7 A King of Eternal Justice

1. What is the role of God's king?
2. What is significant about the references to time?
3. How is the rule of Jesus superior to any earthly form of government?
How can that bring comfort to us as God's people?

Verses 8-14 A King of Universal Justice

4. What impression do we get of the size of the perfect King's kingdom?
How does that help us 'think bigger' than Solomon/Israel's kings?
5. What is God's perfect king like according to verses 12-14? How does this make Jesus superior to any other authority figure?
6. How can these two ideas teach us to pray? How have you experienced the compassion of Jesus in your life?

Verses 15-20 A King of Endless Blessing

7. Why do God's people pray "*long live the king!*" according to verses 15-17? How do these ideas fit into God's story of salvation?
8. Why are verses 18-20 a fitting climax to this Psalm? How has God kept his covenant promise to his people in Jesus?
9. How can the present and future kingdom of Jesus encourage our lives of faith in this coming week?

Praying together

Give thanks for Jesus our perfect king

Pray for his kingdom to extend

Pray for our community and people connected to us to praise king Jesus