

Psalms of the Messiah

Psalm 72 – The Glorious Reign of the Son of David

Introduction – This psalm was written about and probably even finished by the Son of David, King Solomon. Just as David was a type, so we see that Solomon, the Son of David, was a type. Jesus is not just *a Davidson*, He is *the Son of David* (Mt 1:1, 9:27, 12:23, 21:9). We have seen in Ps 2 and Ps 22 that the reign of Christ, this Son of David, began at His resurrection and exists upon the earth now. What can we learn of this reign from this Psalm?

The Righteousness of the Reign (vv 1-7) – The prayer begins by asking God to establish His king in wisdom and righteousness. This is then described as:

True Justice – All persons, including the poor, will be judged according to the same standards. False weights and measures, bribes, and threats will no longer be used to take advantage, and God will especially guard the most vulnerable.

Extended Peace – When the most rugged of areas no longer house the wicked and rebellious, it is only because peace has pressed them out even from the hills. And to keep this peace, the peacemaker will break the oppressors into pieces. It is not a disruption of peace to use the sword. It is a protection of that peace.

Constant Honor – His rule will be so sure, so firm, so unchanging, that there will be constant honor and fear paid to the king. It will pass on day after day for generations.

Gracious Welfare – Like showers that water the earth, this king will pour out himself for his people. “*And I will not hide my face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel*” (Ez 39:29).

Like Begets Like – Because the king is righteous, the righteous will flourish, and they do so unendingly.

“Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done” – We can pray psalm 72 as our prayer today, because we have been instructed to pray that these things occur *on earth as they are in heaven*. Kings and their governments have an obligation today to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Cultures have an obligation today to submit to the standards and direction of God’s laws.

The Universality of the Reign (vv 8-11) – While the boundaries of the reign of this king allude to the original Promised Land, they immediately spread to the covenant promises to Abraham regarding the whole earth (Gen 12:1-2, Rom 4:13). The Son of David will rule the world. They will turn and bow in glad submission or lick the dust in defeat. Tarshish, Sheba, Seba – and all kings shall fall down before Him.

Not Heaven, But Earth – This is not a description of what is going on in heaven, but upon the earth. There are kings and kingdoms. There are conversions and there are enemies brought low. The expectation of the reign of the Son of David is an expansion over the whole earth – “*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*” (Is 11:9).

The Beneficence of the Reign (vv 12-14) – With increased influence, the righteous reign delivers the poor and needy when oppressed. There remains much violence in the world today. But a question must be asked. Where societies have advanced in justice, fighting disease and hunger, helping the poor, has it been a result of human benevolence and intelligence, or has it been due to the influence of the gospel and the church? Outward religious apathy (which is self-deceitful at the core) does not produce peace. Submission to the Son of David brings peace, prosperity, and blessing.

The Endlessness of the Reign (vv 15-20) – The riches of the nations and the devotion of their subjects shall be offered to the Lord. There will be an abundance of fruit from the earth and an increase in the population that will be rendered a great blessing. The manifestation of his dominion will establish his name and the blessings in his name in a continuous and growing manner. The psalm ends with blessing and praise to this glorious king.

Psalm 72 – Our Prayer Today for the Son of David

Our prayers should imitate this prayer and the theology of this prayer. Christ reigns upon His throne. His throne is Righteousness itself and we are praying for His righteousness to be manifested throughout His entire kingdom. *And His kingdom includes the earth*. He has promised to do so as He pours Himself out for His people in the person of the Holy Spirit. We are praying for the world dominion of Christ. We are praying for kings and nations to bow before Him.