

Psalm 72

A Prayer for the Future King

Introduction

David had been told by God that he would have an heir from his own body that would sit on the throne.

David in response offers a prayer to God for his son.

Key Verses: Psalm 72:1 (ESV) Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness **to the royal son!**
Psalm 72:2 (ESV) May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

The kings of Israel were to reflect in their reign the glory of the coming Messiah's kingship.

The king of Israel was seen as a vice regent reigning under the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Psalm 72:2 (ESV) May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

In a similar fashion elders are viewed as under shepherds, caring for God's flock.

1 Peter 5:1 (ESV) So **I exhort the elders among you**, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

1 Peter 5:2 (ESV) **shepherd the flock of God** that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, **as God would have you**; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

1 Peter 5:3 (ESV) not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:4 (ESV) **And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

The messiah's kingship is described in the book of Isaiah as one of righteousness and justice.

Isaiah 32:1 (ESV) Behold, a king will **reign in righteousness**, and princes **will rule in justice**.

Theme: David prays for his son, the future king of Israel, that he would reign with righteousness and justice.

Psalm 72:2 (ESV) May he judge your people with **righteousness**, and your poor with **justice!**

An aside regarding the authorship of Psalm 72

Psalm 72:title (ESV) OF SOLOMON.

Is the Psalm a Psalm by Solomon?

Is the Psalm a Psalm for or concerning Solomon?

KJV- A Psalm *for Solomon.

It is best to understand the Psalm as written by David in regards to Solomon for three reasons.

First, the kingly son is in view.

Psalm 72:1 (ESV) Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness **to the royal son!**

Second, it is found in a section of Psalms where David is the chief author but not the only author.

Psalm 72:20 (ESV) The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

Third, the fulfilment of the petitions of this Psalm fit best with the answers to David's prayers concerning Solomon.

It is important to remember that Psalm 72 is a prayer.

In Hebrew the Psalm begins with an emphatic "O God" and ends with climatic praise to God

Psalm 72:1 (ESV) Give the king your justice, **O God**, and your righteousness to the royal son!

Theme: David prays for his son, the future king of Israel, that he would reign with righteousness and justice.

- I. David's prayer for the coming king is that he would be one who would execute righteousness and justice in accordance with God's righteousness and justice.

Psalm 72:1 (ESV) **Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!**

Psalm 72:2 (ESV) **May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!**

- A. A description of the benefits of a people having a just and righteous king.

1. The people will share in the prosperity of the nation under a righteous and just king.

Psalm 72:3 (ESV) Let the mountains **bear prosperity for the people**, and the hills, in righteousness!

2. A righteous and just king is refreshing.

Psalm 72:6 (ESV) **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass**, like showers that water the earth!

3. Under a righteous and just king peace abounds.

Psalm 72:7 (ESV) In his days may the righteous flourish, **and peace abound**, till the moon be no more!

4. The blessings experienced under a righteous and just king are not just momentary but lasting.

Psalm 72:7 (ESV) In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, **till the moon be no more!**

- B. A prayer that the king would be an advocate for the most lowly.

1. May he be a protector of those who have no other defender.

Psalm 72:4 (ESV) **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people**, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

2. **May he** supply what is needed to those who are suffering lack.

Psalm 72:4 (ESV) May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, **give deliverance to the children of the needy**, and crush the oppressor!

3. May he bring an end to social injustice.

Psalm 72:4 (ESV) May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, **and crush the oppressor!**

4. Application:

- a. The lowly would be of the least advantage and help to the king.
- b. The oppressors of the lowly would be the most powerful and influential people of the kingdom and thus provide a great temptation for the king to side with them.

- II. David prays for the expansion of the kingdom.

Psalm 72:8 (ESV) May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

- A. May kings small and great come to him.

1. May lesser rulers come before him.

Psalm 72:9 (ESV) May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!

2. May the rich and powerful rulers come before him.

Psalm 72:10 (ESV) May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; **may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

Note how this prayer is remarkably fulfilled in the Queen of Sheba.

1 Kings 10:1 (ESV) Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

1 Kings 10:2 (ESV) She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind.

1 Kings 10:10 (ESV) Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones. Never again came such an abundance of spices as these that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

1 Kings 10:11 (ESV) Moreover, the fleet of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a very great amount of almuug wood and precious stones.

3. May all the rulers of the earth seek him.

Psalm 72:11 (ESV) May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

1 Kings 4:34 (ESV) And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

- III. The reason David desires the expanse of the kingdom is so that the king can provide justice for all.

The greatness of a kingdom or a nation is seen in the manner in which it responds to the poor and the needy.

- A. The king is sensitive to the cries for help.

Psalm 72:12 (ESV) For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

- B. The king comes to the aid of the needy out of compassion for them.

Psalm 72:13 (ESV) He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

- C. The king truly cares about the condition of the oppressed and saves them from their distress and even death.

Psalm 72:14 (ESV) From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

IV. David prays that the people would respond in appreciation for God giving them a righteous and just king.

A. May the king live long and prosper.

Psalm 72:15 (ESV) **Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him!** May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

B. May the king's kingdom prosper.

Psalm 72:16 (ESV) May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field!

C. May the king be exalted.

Psalm 72:17 (ESV) May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

V. David's ultimate desire and purpose of his prayer is that the king and his kingdom bring honor and glory to God.

A. May all the blessings of the kingdom be attributed to God's working.

Psalm 72:18 (ESV) Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

B. May the entire earth render glory, honor and praise before God.

Psalm 72:19 (ESV) Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

VI. Application:

A. We too should pray that God would be pleased to use our children.

B. We should pray that they would occupy places of influence for the good of others.

- C. We should pray that they would protect others who cannot protect themselves.
- D. We should pray that God is glorified through their life's work and ministry.
- E. We should be sure that the contents of such prayers be communicated to our children and future leaders.

- 1. These prayers were made public.

- 2. These prayers had a profound influence upon Solomon.

2 Chronicles 1:7 (ESV) In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

2 Chronicles 1:8 (ESV) **And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place.**

2 Chronicles 1:9 (ESV) **O LORD God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled**, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

2 Chronicles 1:10 (ESV) **Give me now wisdom and knowledge** to go out and come in before this people, **for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?"**

- 3. These prayers were wonderfully answered.