

THE BLESSINGS OF SALVATION

(Sermon Summary)

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Sunday Evening – 28th August 2022

Reading: Psalm 72:1-11

Many of the Psalms very clearly foresee Christ. In Psalm 69, there was much anticipation of His sufferings. In this Psalm it is His glory that is to the fore. He is the one we shall call 'blessed' (v17). It is His glory and His glorious name that is in view (v19). Before us are aspects of His work and ministry that draw our admiration, wonder, submission, and praise. He is the one that is there in all the Scriptures (Luke 24:25-26).

Solomon's reign, as we shall see, has something by way of lesser fulfillment of the great descriptions here in Psalm 72. He is who is referred to in Psalm 89:35-37. But the most complete fulfillment of these descriptions and expectations is the Lord Jesus Himself.

1. Solomon – a type of Christ.

A 'type' is someone or something in the Old Testament that illustrates an aspect of the Lord's Person, His ministry, His character, or circumstances of His life. Solomon is referred to in 2 Samuel 12: 24-25. His name means 'peace' and he is also called 'beloved'. He is appointed by David, according to the Lord's command, to succeed him as king (1 Kings 1:28-30). We can see the blessings of Solomon's reign as there is prosperity in the nation (1 Kings 4: 20-23) and also peace (1 Kings 4: 24-25). He has good judgment (1 Kings 3:9; vv16-28; and 1 Kings 4:29).

But there is a greater fulfillment to come that exceeds Solomon, even at his best. This is the kingdom of Christ. This is a kingdom that is within the hearts and minds of His people. It is not an earthly kingdom. It is not the rule over some territory. It is not something the church should be constructing here on earth to establish a kind of government over all things. We pray for the kingdom of Christ to come as seen in the quality of life, experienced in the hearts of His own people.

2. God's judgments and rule.

When the Lord's kingdom comes, there are effects. This was seen in Solomon's rule at its best. But it is seen more completely and perfectly in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We see His reign will be characterised by righteousness (v1) and uprightness (v2). There will be justice (v2). So we see that He will be reliable, trustworthy, and honest. He will give to people what they deserve. Verse 3 tells us that this righteousness will be seen in some surprising places and justice will be administered on behalf of those who are powerless and have no voice (v4) (See Isaiah 42: 1-4). We can see the wisdom and justice in the Lord in how He deals with the woman caught in adultery (John 8: 1-11). We also see it in how He answers the question of paying taxes to Caesar (Matthew 22: 15-22). His Commandments are the measuring stick by which He judges. He was able to understand perfectly human character, what people were thinking in their hearts. He was able to ask good questions, to listen patiently to people. He could work out who they really were (Proverbs 18:2).

The Lord shows us what good government should demonstrate. It should show compassion to the genuinely needy. It should protect the poor from the power and injustices of the rich. Likewise, well run businesses and corporations should model this too. There should be integrity and uprightness. This is where we see the damage done to the credibility of Government by the expenses scandal, 'cronyism' and questions about the integrity of those who hold high office.

The church, especially, should show the rule of Christ and display His character. It should be a company of people in training for heaven. There should be good doctrine and sound teaching. People should be able to exercise discernment and good judgment (1 Corinthians 6;1-6). The church should be able to sort out its own affairs wisely. Jethro gave Moses good advice about making wise appointments and delegation to competent people (Exodus 18; 15-16; 19-22). We should be learning to discern, to read character better and better, and to weigh up things.

There have unfortunately been spectacular failures. There have been abusive Pastors and people in the church with far too much interest in money. Churches, to their shame, have shielded child abusers or counseled women to stay in ruinous marriages. Rather righteousness should flourish in the church where there is plain speaking and a straight-forwardness about things.

3. Peace and prosperity.

These are the blessings of salvation. Where Christ is known, His kingdom is increasing, and the blessings follow.

We have peace from our enemies and are released from the devil's power (1 John 3:8). Hostile people bow in submission (v9). Demons submit to the Lord. Those who are far off come (v10) as seen when the wise men come to adore the baby Jesus. Every knee bows to Him (v11), as we also learn from Philippians 2:10. All the violence against the Lord's people, that we see in such countries as Iran and Pakistan, ceases (v14).

There is security and an abundance of peace (v2, v7). There is the deepest contentment to the soul that we can know (v16) which is like the blessing of justification by faith which brings us immense peace with God (Romans 5:1). We are refreshed in Him. People are cheered and the fallen are raised. He revives the spirit and brings joy to the heart. Those without hope and in despair find that God is with them. He says to us 'Live' and we do. The fruitless bear much fruit. These blessings remain as a constant state (v5, v7), just like the sun and the moon.

The soul is continually refreshed, and the Lord confirms His inheritance when we are weary by lifting our spirits.

This is what the benevolent rule of our Lord Jesus Christ is like.