

Psa. 72:1-20

Introduction

Psalm 72 probably refers to a prayer offered by David for Solomon, which Solomon then recorded in this psalm. Solomon is the son of the king, for whom David prays in verse 1, but as the psalm progresses, however, it becomes clear that a King greater than both David and Solomon is in view.

Summary

Psalm 72 records not only David's petition for God's blessing on the reign of his son, Solomon, but also the messianic reign of David's greatest son, Jesus Christ.

1. Righteous Kingdom vv. 1-4

In his prayer, David prioritizes petitioning the Lord for a righteous kingdom (72:1). His prayer, then, is that God would grant David's son the ability to rule and judge in conformity to God's own righteous character.

This should be our greatest desire for anyone who exercises authority: that he would act consistently with God's Word.

David extends his prayer deliberately joining righteousness with the defense of the weak and needy (**Psalm 72:2**) but this righteous rule is seen here also to bear the fruit of a prosperous well-being for all (**Psalm 72:3-4**).

What David depicts for Israel under righteous rule is figuratively true for the spiritual state of the believer in Jesus Christ.

2. Eternal Kingdom vv. 5-7

The second quality of the kingdom for which David prayed was that his son's reign would be endless in duration (**Psalm 72:5**).

Subjects may cry, "Long live the king" but they know he cannot live forever.

How different is the reign of King Jesus Christ, who rules forever over an everlasting kingdom (**Dan. 7:14.**).

Psalm 72:6-7 adds an appeal that vividly depicts the blessings of Christ's reign.

Christ comes to our hearts with the same effects that rain brings to the dry ground.

3. Universal Kingdom vv. 8-11

In addition to being righteous and eternal, Christ's glorious reign will be universal (**Psalm 72:8**).

Not only will all lands come under Christ's rule, but all peoples will submit to him (**Psalm 72:9-11**).

4. Merciful Kingdom vv. 12-13

Christ's kingdom is not only righteous, eternal, and universal, it still also a merciful kingdom. This is a great encouragement to the weakest, most sinful, and most needy supplicant (**Psalm 72:12-13**).

Jesus came to minister to those whom he described as "the poor in spirit," saying that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (**Matt. 5:3**).

Jesus saves them by his work of redemption, as David foretold: "From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight" (**72:14**).

5. Blessed Kingdom vv. 15-17

The righteous, eternal, universal, and merciful kingdom of Christ is one that is showered with blessing from God (**Psalm 72:15-16**).

Solomon's treasury was enriched by the gold of Sheba, but Christ's throne is enriched by the hearts surrendered to him and the prayers offered in adoring faith.

David saw a kingdom that not only is enriched with offerings of gold but is growing in produce and population (**Psalm 72:16**).

So fruitful is Christ's kingdom that every inch of ground blessed by his grace will abound in a harvest. Likewise, every heart born again by the power of Christ will produce a rich yield through faith and gospel grace.

Lives changed by Christ become witnesses of his gospel grace to others, so that where he reigns his church increases and grows (**Psalm 72:16**).

David's prayers for Christ's kingdom show why faithful churches should never fret but instead should simply serve Christ boldly in a living faith.

As a result of this blessed kingdom, David prays, the king, himself, is greatly blessed (**Psalm 72:17**).

This being David's prayer, so certain of receiving God's answer, why would Christians be excited about any other project in comparison to the worship and service of King Jesus Christ?

6. Kingdom for God's Glory vv. 18-20

The Lord God of Israel should be praised for the wondrous things he has done.

Amongst all wondrous acts of God, the wonder of all wonders is the saving work that God has achieved through Jesus Christ, his own royal Son.

"In this way Psalm 72 summarizes the entire Bible as David prays for the coming of God's righteous kingdom through the promised Messiah, whose endless, universal, merciful, and blessed kingdom will bring salvation and fill the earth with God's glory."

If we, like David, set aside every claim except the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus as Lord, seeing him with the eyes of faith, we will desire with David: "Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!" (**Psalm 72:19**).