

Psalm 72

Prophetically this Psalm looks beyond the Davidic king for whom it was first sung, reminding him of his high calling, and attains a vision of the reign of Jesus Christ after His Second Coming.

The ideal kingship is focussed on justice which brings new life to those under oppression, in such a king the helpless find a powerful redeemer, [Psalms 72:1-4].

Isaiah 11:1-5 [New King James] *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.”*

This is a direct prophecy of the future rule of Jesus Christ, the physical son of David but also the Son of God.

Notice how the Psalm follows the same theme in its opening verses.

Psalms 72:5-7, 17 [New King James] *“They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth. In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.” ... “His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed.”*

This king’s reign will be forever, this simile may have been promoted by the last words of King David [2 Samuel 23:1-7] where the king is likened to sun and rain to his subjects, creating conditions in which all that is good and fresh may flourish.

This is the other side of kingship to the “rod of iron” of Psalms 2:9, yet the one is the true compliment of the other as Psalms 72:4 shows.

Note the Hebrew text of **verse 7** refers to “his” the righteous man instead of righteousness drawing attention to the humble counterpart of the one and only righteous king, Jesus Christ, yet it is on his integrity depends the peace or wellbeing of the people as a whole.

Psalms 72:8-11 [New King James] *“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts. Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.”*

A righteous ruler will be acknowledged outside his own nation. This happened in part during the early part of the reign of Solomon, which was a very small foretaste of what will happen at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the true King of righteousness and Prince of peace, [Isaiah 9:6; John 14:27].

Psalms 72:12-14 [New King James] *“For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight.”*

Not only does this king have sympathy with the helpless poor and destitute but He esteems each person’s life [blood] precious and worthy of redemption from evil powers.

Psalms 72:15-19 [New King James] *“And He shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised. There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.”*

These verses can only be referring to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and His Second Coming and all the wondrous things that will happen to humanity under His rule.

The Psalm ends with a double “Amen” as did **Psalm 41** which closed the First Book of Psalms.

Psalms 72:20 [New King James] *“The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.”*

This does **not** mean that King David wrote this Psalm but that he wrote most of the Psalms in the Second Book.

This doxology [**verses 18-19**] are editorial material marking the end of this Second Book of Psalms, is appropriately placed when we consider the theme that flows through this Second Book of Psalms, [**Psalms 42-72**] all, to a certain extent, point to the future world that will be under the Righteous King, Jesus Christ.

May that day soon dawn!