

Psalms for Every Season: Messianic Psalms

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Psalm 72

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Reflection & Discussion

Our leaders make oaths that are mostly fiction and we crown kings without ever assigning the title

But we really long for someone or something to lead us with goodness.

*Why do you think we keep hoping a human king or leader is going to make things better?

*What named or unnamed kings has society crowned? Who or what has king-like authority in your life?

Psalm 72 describes a King unlike any king that had been crowned

Read and discuss Psalm 72 (NIV)

*¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.*

*² May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.*

*³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.*

*⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.*

*⁵ May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.*

*⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.*

*⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.*

*⁸ May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

*⁹ May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.*

*¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.*

*May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.*

*¹¹ May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.*

*¹² For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.*

*¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.*

*¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.*

*¹⁵ Long may he live!
May gold from Sheba be given him.*

*May people ever pray for him
and bless him all day long.*

*¹⁶ May grain abound throughout the land;
on the tops of the hills may it sway.*

*May the crops flourish like Lebanon
and thrive like the grass of the field.*

*¹⁷ May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.*

*Then all nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.*

*¹⁸ Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.*

*¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.*

Amen and Amen.

²⁰ This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

*What do you notice about this passage and the king it describes?

*What feelings or emotions come to you as you read the psalm?

The world is not as it should be

The psalmists repeatedly pray for justice in a world full of injustice.

*Where are the places in the world or your life that you notice are particularly full of injustice and brokenness?

*What human ruler or thing do you cry out to for fixing it?

*How are the vulnerable faring under these 'kings' we cry out to?

The prayer found the one true King and Son of God

The Messiah they'd waited centuries for did not lead like any king they'd imagined.

*Compare and contrast the King described in the passage and those we hope will provide justice and protection in our world.

*What makes living in this stretch of history so difficult?

Psalm 72 is identity shaping for everyone who follows the true King

The King has chosen ordinary people to help carry His kingdom into the not yet.

*Where is your groan the loudest? In your own life or elsewhere?

*What one moment or place stands out as somewhere to reach out to as part of the Kingdom?

*What is the Spirit saying to you through this psalm about your current season of life? Where are you being invited to come to the true King?

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