

Psalm 72: A Vision Beyond Solomon

Psalm 72 is titled “A Psalm for Solomon.” At first glance, it appears to be a prayer for Solomon’s reign. However, as we read closely, it becomes clear that the psalm’s vision stretches far beyond Solomon. It points to the greater Son promised to David — Jesus Christ — who will one day sit on David’s throne and establish His kingdom in righteousness, justice, and peace, reigning forever. Thus, Psalm 72 has a dual focus: it is both a prayer for Solomon’s rule and a prophetic portrait of Christ’s future reign during the Kingdom Age.

“Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son” (Psalm 72:1, NKJV).

When Christ returns, He will judge the nations with absolute righteousness. God’s perfect justice will be granted to Him, and He will rule with divine authority. As Revelation 20 describes, there will be a final judgment, and Christ, the righteous Judge, will preside over it.

“He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy and will break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:2–4, NKJV).

This reign will be characterized by righteousness at every level of society. Even creation — the mountains and hills — will seem to participate in the peace He brings. The vulnerable and needy will find protection and justice, and oppressors will be overthrown.

The psalm continues:

“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” (Psalm 72:5–7, NKJV).

These words extend beyond Solomon’s temporary rule to the eternal kingdom of Christ. His reign will endure as long as the sun and moon exist — forever. Righteousness will flourish, and peace will be abundant, a peace not fleeting or fragile, but enduring and complete.

“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth” (Psalm 72:8, NKJV).

His kingdom will cover the entire earth. Unlike Solomon’s limited reign, Christ’s dominion will stretch globally, fulfilling the prophecy of Psalm 2:8, where God says, *“Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.”*

“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” (Psalm 72:9–11, NKJV).

This vision points to the time when *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Philippians 2:10, NKJV).* Christ will receive

honor and gifts from every corner of the world. Every ruler, every nation will acknowledge His lordship.

In Revelation 1:6, the redeemed are described as being made "kings and priests to His God and Father." Similarly, in Revelation 5:9–10, believers are praised as being "redeemed... out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation," made "kings and priests" who "shall reign on the earth." So, when we read about kings falling before Christ, we recognize that it includes us, the redeemed, who will serve Him during His reign.

"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" (Psalm 72:12–14, NKJV).

Christ's kingdom will not be marked by power for its own sake, but by compassion and deliverance. Those who suffer now — the forgotten, the oppressed — will find in Him a faithful Deliverer. Their lives are precious in His sight.

"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" (Psalm 72:15–17, NKJV).

The abundance described here speaks of a restored creation. Even the mountaintops will be fruitful — a reversal of the curse of scarcity that followed the fall of man. Prosperity, blessing, and flourishing life will be the norm, not the exception.

"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" (Psalm 72:18–19, NKJV).

This is the heart of Psalm 72 — the ultimate purpose of Christ's reign: that the entire earth would be filled with the glory of God. This doxology marks the end of the second book of Psalms, and it leaves us with a clear hope — not just for a future kingdom, but for the current calling to glorify God even now.

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

This concludes David's contributions up to this point in the Psalter, a fitting end to prayers that not only sought the welfare of an earthly kingdom but anticipated a far greater eternal Kingdom.

Personal Application

Psalm 72 challenges us to lift our eyes beyond the fleeting kingdoms of this world and place our hope in the coming reign of Christ. As believers, we are invited to live now as citizens of His kingdom, embodying His righteousness, justice, and compassion.

Do we defend the cause of the poor and needy? Do we work for peace in a world torn by conflict? Are our lives marked by the kind of humility and worship this psalm describes? As we await the day when Christ's kingdom will fill the earth with His glory, we are called to be faithful stewards of His righteousness today.

While this psalm points forward to a coming reality, it also calls us to present action — to pray, to worship, and to serve, knowing that our King reigns even now, and His reign will soon be fully revealed.

"Let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."