

Rhema Christian Center  
Triumphant Tuesday  
PSALM 72 (Teacher: Sarah Twitty)  
November 1, 2022

## INTRODUCTION

According to some commentators, Psalm 72 is a prayer of David written for his son Solomon. Yet, others say it is Solomon writing in the third person and so forth. Because it is controversial and doesn't affect salvation one way or the other, I decided to go with commentator J. Vernon McGee. He says,

**“This is called ‘A Psalm for Solomon.’ The critics claim that Solomon wrote it, but I don’t believe it, because the concluding verse (20) says this: “The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.” This is a psalm of David written for his son Solomon. (McGee).**

This is a royal psalm that constitutes a prayer for the new king. It is twofold. David is praying for his son Solomon and is speaking prophetically about the coming Messiah as the ultimate, royal Son of David. As we read through the prayer, we will see that many statements could only apply to Jesus.

In God’s covenant with David (the Davidic Covenant), He promised that:

- His line would have a kingdom; and
- It would be everlasting.

Some might say, we understand how Solomon is the son of David, but how does the Messiah become the Son of David.

When Matthew introduces Jesus, he begins with His genealogy. Matt. 1:1 says, *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:”*

In Acts 2:30, it states that David knew without a doubt that, “. . . *God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.”*

Gal. 4:4 says, *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born<sup>[d]</sup> of a woman, born under the law.”* Mary was his birth mother and Joseph was his adopted father making Him eligible to be king. Both of his parents were from the lineage of David and from the tribe of Judah.

## EVENTS BEFORE SOLOMON ANOINTED KING

It is believed that David was old when he prayed this prayer (see footnote<sup>1</sup>).

**<sup>1</sup>“This psalm is thought by some to be the last that was written by David, even though put it is in this place; and it is certain that the psalms are not always placed in the order of time in which they were written: . . .” (Gill Expository).**

Solomon was getting ready to take on one of the biggest responsibilities of his life—king of Israel. However, there was a lot of drama circulating around the family during that time. Adonijah, one of

Solomon's brothers took advantage of his father David's failing health and made himself king before David has the opportunity to officially make Solomon the king. (I Kings 1). How did Adonijah do this?

- He gained the support of Joab who was David's military commander and Abiathar, the priest.
- He prepares a feast and invites the royal officials of Judah to attend.
- However, the guest list does not include Nathan the prophet nor his brother Solomon. (When you have to manipulate and connive, you know you are doing something wrong.)
- Nathan, the prophet, informs Bathsheba that Adonijah has made himself king without David's knowledge.
- He advises Bathsheba on how to save her life and that of Solomon.
- Bathsheba tells David everything and reminds him of his promise that Solomon would be king.

***"King David said, "Call Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." They came to the king. <sup>33</sup> Then he ordered, "Gather my servants, then mount my son Solomon on my royal mule and lead him in procession down to Gihon. <sup>34</sup> When you get there, Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet will anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the ram's horn and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!' <sup>35</sup> You will then accompany him as he enters and takes his place on my throne, succeeding me as king. I have named him ruler over Israel and Judah." I Kings 1:36-40.***

David said, "Of all my sons--and the LORD has given me many--he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel." I Chron. 28:5.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A KING

The position of King came with major responsibilities. The King served as the final judge and the supreme court. More importantly, the Lord was King over His people, and the man on the throne in Jerusalem was His representative, obligated to lead the people according to the law of God. He had to be impartial in his dealings with the people and make sure that his throne was founded on righteousness and justice.

God has always been concerned with how people treat each other. The golden rule says treat others as you would like to be treated. The bible says, " <sup>29</sup> . . . you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second. . . is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31.

If you love your neighbor as yourself, you would not step on others to get ahead, you won't charge exorbitant prices for gas, food and utilities. You won't over price apartment/home rental; and if in your power, you would pay a living wage.

### PSALM 72

#### A JUST REIGN

*<sup>1</sup>Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.*

David wanted the relationship he had with God to continue with Solomon and to be reflected in his judgments. He wanted him to rule in righteousness and to govern the people justly.

After Solomon became king, he made those same requests to God for himself. He wanted to serve the people justly and righteously.

In 2 Chronicles 1:7-12, God appears to Solomon in a dream and tells him to ask for whatever he wants, and He would give it to him.

- Solomon answered God, *“You were extravagantly generous with David my father, and now you have made me king in his place. Establish, GOD, the words you spoke to my father, for you’ve given me a staggering task, ruling this mob of people.*
- *Give me wisdom and knowledge as I come and go among this people—for who on his own is capable of leading these, your glorious people?” (Msg)*

Solomon had a servant’s heart. If we are to serve effectively in the kingdom of God, we need to have a servant’s heart. Jesus had a servant’s heart. He said in Matthew 20:28 that he did not come to earth to be served, but to serve.

Then God answered Solomon, *“This is what has come out of your heart:*

- *You didn’t grasp for money, wealth, fame, and the doom of your enemies; you didn’t even ask for a long life.*
- *You asked for wisdom and knowledge so you could govern well my people over whom I’ve made you king. Because of this, you get what you asked for—wisdom and knowledge.*
- *And I’m presenting you the rest as a bonus—money, wealth, and fame beyond anything the kings before or after you had or will have.” (Msg)*

***SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.***

Solomon began his reign with the blessing of God upon him. His wisdom was a gift from God. Jesus is the giver of all wisdom. James 1:5 says, <sup>5</sup> *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

<sup>2</sup> *May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.* <sup>3</sup> *May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.* <sup>4</sup> *May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.*

Solomon was thoughtful of the needy, especially the widows and orphans who could not help themselves. He would vindicate their cause against their oppressors. His reign would be one of impartial justice, under which the rights of the poor as well as the rich would be respected. Solomon was

not a man of war but of peace. He was greatly admired, and his reign brought peace and prosperity to the people as long as they followed God.

However, because we, as well as they live in a fallen world and there will be no permanent peace on earth until the King of Peace sets up His reign on the earth. If Jesus is the King of your life and dwelling in your heart, he gives you “. . . *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, (that) will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus* (Phil 4:7). John 14:27 says, “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” This is the victory Jesus won for us when He came to earth the first time.

When David prayed this prayer, it extended beyond Solomon. David lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> dispensation prophesying about the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> dispensations. We are presently in the 6<sup>th</sup> dispensation (church age) and the 7<sup>th</sup> (millennial age) is on the horizon.

The millennial, the thousand years of peace, will be ushered in after the tribulation period when the Messiah comes back to earth and sits on the throne of David. (*There are different schools of thought about the order of events that will occur at the end time*).

#### A UNIVERSAL REIGN

FROM THE 5<sup>TH</sup> VERSE ONWARD, MANY OF THE VERSES APPLY TO THE MESSIAH AND NOT SOLOMON.

*<sup>5</sup> May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.*

In other words, may God’s people fear (honor, reverence) you for all time -- as long as creation is maintained.

*<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. <sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.*

He is talking about the king being a blessing to the people. The image of the rain reminds us that a righteous king would encourage righteousness in the people, and a righteous people would receive God’s promised blessings, according to His covenant in Deut. 28:8-14 if they obeyed him.

In 2 Sam. 23:3-4, David used a metaphor to say that Godly leaders are like the refreshing rain that makes the land fruitful and beautiful, so that even the newly mowed fields will produce a second crop. However, very few of the kings who reigned after David were models of godliness. Therefore, this passage is again speaking of the Messiah.

*<sup>8</sup> May he rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. <sup>9</sup> May the desert tribes bow before him, and his enemies lick the dust.*

God promised Abraham that he would give his descendants all the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates confirmed through Moses. Both David and Solomon ruled over great kingdoms but neither of

them ruled from the river Euphrates to the end of the earth. This privilege is reserved for Jesus Christ, “His kingdom shall have no end.” Luke 1:33. Jesus is the only one who will rule the whole earth.

***<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.***

David gained the kingdom through conquest and left it to his son Solomon, who strengthened it by means of treaties with other countries. Kings of Sheba and Seba paid tribute to Solomon. This was a means of keeping peace. But there is only one King of Kings and that is Jesus Christ. His reign shall be absolute. All people and all nations shall fall down before Him and worship Him.

Phil. 2:10-11 says, ***“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;” “And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

There is no doubt who this scripture is speaking of.

#### A COMPASSIONATE REIGN

***<sup>12</sup> For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. <sup>13</sup> He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. <sup>14</sup> He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.***

This is definitely not talking about Solomon. He started strong walking in the ways of God, he but did not finish strong. He allowed the lust of the flesh and the pride of life to rule his life. “. . . ***As Solomon grew older, his wives beguiled him with their alien gods, and he became unfaithful - he didn't stay true to his God as his father David had done. (I Kings 11:4)***

As far as doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God, Solomon failed. After Solomon's death, the people asked his son to lighten the load his father had placed on them. They said ***“Your father made life hard for us—worked our fingers to the bone. Give us a break; lighten up on us and we'll willingly serve you.”*** (I Kings 12:4)

Jesus is the one who has great compassion for the needy and meets their needs (Matt 9:36). He showed His compassion by shedding His own precious blood for the salvation of the world. Jesus rescued us and will continue to rescue all those who come to Him.

#### A PROSPEROUS REIGN

***<sup>15</sup> Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long. <sup>16</sup> 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.***

God's covenant with Israel ensured them of prosperity so long as the rulers and the people obeyed His commandments. The Lord also assured David that he would always have an heir to his throne. (2 Sam. 7:11-12).

Israel's prosperity would not only be political (the king), but also economic (gold), spiritual (prayer), and commercial (thriving crops).

***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.***

All nations shall praise Him; and shall speak of Him as the source of their highest comforts, joys, and hopes (see Luke 19:38; Matt. 21:9; 23:39). In fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham, "... ***the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*** Gen. 12:1-3

We are blessed through the seed of Abraham -- Jesus Christ. He came to the earth in the likeness of sinful flesh, yet without sin to redeem us from a world of destruction. Phil 2:8 says, "***And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the to the point of death, even the death of the cross.***"

Jesus shall reign on His throne forever and ever; of his government there will be no end; his kingdom is an everlasting one; he shall reign over the house of Jacob, and on the throne of David, forever.

### A GLORIOUS REIGN

***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.***

- Jesus' name will endure forever and in Him shall all nations of the earth be blessed. His name has power to heal, the power to save, the power to deliver, and the power to resurrect us to everlasting life.
- It is God alone who does marvelous deeds.

God gave David this great vision of the kingdom and the reign of Christ when the whole earth would be filled with His glory. This is what David prayed for, so he concludes his prayers with amen and amen. This phraseology is an expressive way of the psalmist to say that all he said will come to pass.

***20 This concludes the prayers of David's the son of Jesse.***

In other words, "My prayers are ended; I am through praying." What David had prayed for will be realized. He had nothing more to pray for! (McGee).

This psalm concludes book II of the Psalms.

### Footnote

## **<sup>1</sup>Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible**

“The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended. The Septuagint version renders it, the hymns. This psalm is thought by some to be the last that was written by David, though put in this place; and it is certain that the psalms are not always placed in the order of time in which they were written: . . .”

### Sources

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