

# Poems, Prayers & Promises



## Teaching Title Here

### Key idea:

Solomon could not fulfill the coronation hopes of Psalm 72, only The true and good King can fulfill Psalm 72, only King Jesus. The King is alive, long live The King.

### Key text:

Psalm 72:1-20 (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.

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

15Long may he live!  
May gold from Sheba be given him.  
May people ever pray for him  
and bless him all day long.  
16May 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.  
17May 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.

18Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,  
who alone does marvelous deeds.  
19Praise be to his glorious name forever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen and Amen.

20This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

### **Key points:**

1. It was common in the ancient near east that coronation hymns and prayers be created for ascendant kings. Psalm 72 is one such coronation prayer for King Solomon as he takes the throne of Israel
2. Psalm 72 recounts Solomonic themes of peace, prosperity, and wisdom.
3. Psalm 72 expressed Israel's hopes for the kind of king Solomon would become: righteous and just, recognizing his responsibility to rule with Godly character, a defender of the poor and afflicted, and concerned with the prosperity of the people and the land.

4. Psalm 72 is a seam Psalm and closes Book 2 of the Psalter. A seam Psalm is one joins two different movements of the Psalter.
5. Solomon could not measure up to the hopes and aspirations expressed in Psalm 72. He started strong, but turned his heart to the gods of his wives. He made the God of Israel angry.
6. Only one Person has measured up to Psalm 72. King Jesus.
7. Unlike the other kings of the ancient near east, our King is alive and we can say with confidence, “Long live The King.”

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Solomon started well by asking for Godly wisdom to rule the people, and he was rewarded by God with wisdom and riches. But Solomon disobeyed God and his heart turned to the gods of his wives? Why do you think he allowed that to happen?
3. Can you think of other people, celebrities, and leaders who started well, but ended badly? Is that a problem for us all as human beings?
4. What kind of king does Psalm 72 describe? What are his attributes, character traits, and responsibilities?
5. What is the role of “seam” Psalms in the Psalter? Do you find the literary context of Psalm 72, and other seam Psalms, interesting?
6. What are the ways that Solomon and Christ are different in their backgrounds, privilege, wealth, and colleagues? Given their differences, from a human perspective, who would you expect to have made the larger impact on their own world and our's?
7. What does it mean when Paul says in Colossians 1:21 “if we continue in the faith?” Is this a warning, an admonishment, or an encouragement? How can we know, and what should we do about this?
8. What does it mean to say, “The king is dead, long live the king?” Why can we proclaim boldly, “The King is alive, long live The King”?
9. Do we recognize Jesus is the King of our lives and the entire cosmos?
10. Should we reflect the Godly character Psalm 72 describes?

11. Do we pray for our leaders as Psalm 72 was originally intended to do by its human authors? What should we pray for their salvation as Paul suggests in 1 Tim 2:1?
12. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?