

Psalm 72

Introduction.

- A. Book of Psalms divided into five parts.
 - 1. Divisions.
 - a. 1-41.
 - b. 42-72.
 - c. 73-89.
 - d. 90 – 106.
 - e. 107 – 150.
 - 2. Mirroring the Pentateuch.
 - 3. Each ends with a doxology.
- B. Book 2 contains mostly Elohist psalms.
- C. Authors.
 - 1. Most by David.
 - 2. Some by the Sons of Korah.
 - 3. Two by Solomon.
 - a. Wrote 1005 songs (1 Kings 4:32).
 - b. Only two in book of Psalms: 72 and 127.
- D. Psalm 72 describes the reign of the Messiah.

I. It is righteous (1-7).

- A. “Righteousness” appears four times in 7 verses.
 - 1. Paired with justice.
 - 2. To do what is right in God’s eyes.
 - 3. The king uses his power rightly.
- B. With righteousness comes prosperity.
- C. Protects the weak and vulnerable.
- D. Causes life to flourish.
 - 1. The rain that produces crops.
 - 2. Endures forever.
- E. Verse 7: prosperity = abundance of peace.
 - 1. Shalom: not just lack of war.
 - 2. Wholeness, prosperity, justice, flourishing, things put right.

II. It is universal (8-11).

- A. His dominion is to the ends of the earth.
- B. All nations will submit to his authority (Phi. 2:10-11).
 - 1. Tarshish = the far end of Spain.
 - 2. Sheba = probably the end of the Arabian Peninsula.
 - 3. Seba = probably modern Ethiopia.

III. It is beneficent (12-14).

- A. Taking care of the needy, weak, and afflicted.
 - 1. He hears their cries when no one else does.
 - 2. Helpless, poor, oppressed.
- B. They are precious in his sight.
- C. Even the poorest beggar was made in God's image.
- D. Jesus:
 - 1. Touched lepers.
 - 2. Welcomed children.
 - 3. Ate with sinners.
 - 4. Cared for widows.
 - 5. Healed the sick.
 - 6. Defended the vulnerable.
 - 7. Gave his life for sinners.

IV. It is perpetual (15-17).

- A. Abundance.
- B. Name endures forever.
 - 1. All other great rulers have died.
 - 2. He will never die.
- C. The nations of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:3).

V. Doxology (18-19).

- A. Praise.
- B. Glory.

VI. Postscript (20).