

The Praying King Psalm 72

“It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end. (Berkhoff, *Systematic Theology* p. 403)

“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.” (Robert Murray M’Cheyne p. 179)

Book 1 (Psalms 1-41)

Book 2 (Psalms 42-72)

Book 3 (Psalms 73-89)

Book 4 (Psalms 90-106)

Book 5 (Psalms 107-150)

Book 1 & 2 is called by some commentators “The Tears of King David

Psalm 72 is where we see the heartbeat of King Jesus in Prayer.

You Matter. In your deepest need and darkest hour and greatest struggles, He sees you and seeks your Greatest Good Forever.

This is to the praise of His glory.

1. Praying for Permanent Peace for God’s People

Psalm 72:1-7

“In his days, may the righteous flourish, and peace abound till the moon be no more.”

“In the Bible shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight – a rich state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Saviour opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights.” -Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

Sin is “The vandalism of God’s shalom.” -Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

- **The establishment of the King’s eternally just reign (72:1-2)**

“Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to your royal son! May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!” (Psalm 72:1-2)

“On him was the punishment that brought us peace [shalom], and by His wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

- **The rescue of those who are poor, vulnerable, and oppressed.**

“Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills in righteousness! May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, and the hills, in righteousness! May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.” (Psalm 72:3-4)

“He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” Luke 4:16-19

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Ephesians 2:1-3

- **The flourishing of reverence and justice and peace forever. (Ps 72:5-7)**

“May they fear (revere) you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! May he be like the rain that falls on mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more.”

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“When no one else stands by you, God does. When no one else can help you, God will. When you can’t see where you can put your foot without slipping and falling, God will steady your steps and keep you upright.” Bobby Jamieson

2. Praying for Pervasive Peace for the Nations

Psalm 72:8-14

“May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The Range of His Vision: Praying for all the kings of the earth to bow before Him.

“And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more breath in her. And she said to the king, ‘The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and your wisdom but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!’ 1 Kings 10:1-8

The Reason for this Vision: Compassion for the Misery of the Nations.

*“For he delivers the needy when He calls,
The poor and him who has no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
And precious is their blood in his sight.”*

“And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:9-10

“When you're drowning in the dark waters of grief or shame or pain, Jesus is not a coach who stands on the shoreline, shouting swimming instructions. He is the Savior who leaps into danger unhesitatingly, holds your head above water, and swims you to shore. He doesn't tell you what to do; he says, "It is done. It is finished. I've got you." Chad Bird

“Jesus reveals his kingship not by coming down from the cross to save himself, but by staying on the cross to save others. Jesus reigns by saving, and he saves by giving his life.” Jeremy Treat

3. Praying for Perpetual Praise. Psalm 72:15-20

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel... Blessed be His glorious name forever!:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!” Psalm 72:18-19

Shalom Is Not The End Goal. Worship is.

Shalom is fulfilled when the Nations Unite in Joyous Praise.

“Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more...

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.”

Isaac Watts