

Solomon Tells of Jesus' Coming

Psalm 72:1-19



Writing Psalm 72

Some believe that Psalm 72 was written about Solomon and not by him. It is true that some elements of the psalm could well describe Solomon, but many elements describe a king whose actions go far beyond Solomon's capabilities. The early church believed that this psalm was written as a prayer for a king to come in the line of David and Solomon: the Messiah, Jesus. That's the approach taken in today's lesson.

The Psalmist Points Beyond Himself

Some elements of the psalm could indeed describe Solomon. He judged righteously and with great wisdom, as illustrated in the story of the two women who each claimed to be the mother of the same infant (1 Kings 3:16-28). He reigned over a prosperous kingdom, the wealthiest in Israel's history. He expanded the boundaries of the kingdom to encompass more territory than ever before. And he was sought by the queen of Sheba, who came to him bearing gifts.

However, much of this psalm points directly to the Messiah. Only Jesus' kingdom will truly extend to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8), and only to Jesus will all rulers eventually bow down (Psalm 72:11). There isn't a lot of biblical evidence that Solomon cared for the needy and afflicted (Psalm 72:12-14), but Jesus' life and ministry were characterized by such caring. And while the statement that all nations would be blessed through him (Psalm 72:17) could possibly refer to Solomon indirectly, it definitely refers to Jesus.

The Works of the Messiah

If Jesus is indeed the subject of Psalm 72, it is easy to answer the question: What does Jesus do? Jesus does amazing things for us! He takes care of the needy and their children, and he defeats oppressors (Psalm 72:4, 12-14). He lives forever, despite the fact that he died on the cross for us (Psalm 72:5). When he returns, Jesus will reign over the entire earth (Psalm 72:8). Surely he deserves from us the same kind of praise and honor given in verses 18 and 19!

The Jesus Connection

We've learned about many different facets of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. But let's never forget what Jesus has done for us. He is worthy of all our praise for that alone.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Jesus?

Who is Jesus to you? A teacher...a minister...a

ast one—savior. Spend two minutes prayerfully considering how Jesus is your Savior. You can write your prayer here.	

Adult

Lesson 1

Winter Quarter

Psalm 72:1-19

▶ Bible Point—Jesus does great things.

Key Verse—"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).



Daily Challenges

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- Set aside time this week to reflect upon God's blessings in your life.
 Commit to making it the first thing you think about in the morning and the last thing you think about at night.
- Come up with a way you can give God thanks for his love for you. Journal, write a poem, talk to yourself—whatever you want—just reflect for an hour or so on God's love for you. Then take time to thank God for his incredible love
- Keep a journal of the things Jesus does this week, and try to match each one up with the "He will..." statements from Psalm 72. Look at your list several times during the week, and thank him for the great things he is doing. Then pray in hope for a great thing you would like Jesus to do in your future.

Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives to help you continue to think about Jesus.

Monday: Psalm 72:1-4

■ What great things does Jesus do to help the afflicted?

Tuesday: Psalm 72:5-7

How is Jesus enduring and refreshing?

Wednesday: Psalm 72:8-11

■ Why will all people someday bow to Jesus? What will Jesus' rule be like?

Thursday: Psalm 72:12-14

How does Jesus bring deliverance and salvation?

Friday: Psalm 72:15-17

How are all nations blessed through Jesus?

Saturday: Psalm 72:18-19

Add your words of praise to the ones in this passage.

Talk Topics

- What would you say to someone who thinks that Jesus isn't alive today and therefore isn't doing anything in the world today?
- Talk about why many people today don't think they need Jesus. For example, they don't believe in Jesus, don't undersand what sin is, or have no understanding that Jesus will one day judge them.
- Talk about what Jesus is doing right now and how things will change when he comes again.

