

## *PSALM 72*

Many scholars consider this a Messianic Psalm, and there is much to be said for this view. First, the consistent tradition stemming from the ancient Jewish interpretation which renders the opening line, "O God, give the precepts of judgment to King Messiah." Second, throughout the centuries, the Christian Church held unwaveringly to the same conviction. Third, there is the prominent fact that the nation of Israel was aware of the unique destiny of the house of David, as 2 Samuel 7 indicates. And if Solomon knew of the divine promises with regard to the future of the Davidic line from which he descended, a prayer such as this is most reasonably attributed to him.

Yet the psalm cannot be considered wholly Messianic. The reigning monarch of Israel, probably Solomon, stands in the forefront, the Messianic King stands in the background. Both are in the picture by design. The psalm was to be used as a prayer for Solomon, Israel's king, and other monarchs of the house of David as time went on. But the psalm pointed beyond the temporal ruler to the final and permanent Ruler who was to come, Jesus, the Son of God.

The psalm ends with the notation, "The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended." It has been suggested that this psalm was David's, but due to his decline in health and his old age, Solomon put it in written form.

### *A Psalm of Solomon.*

- 1 Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's son.
- 2 May he judge Your people with righteousness and Your afflicted with justice.
- 3 Let the mountains bring peace to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 May he vindicate the afflicted of the people,  
save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
  
- 5 Let them fear You while the sun *endures*,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.
  
- 8 May he also rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9 Let the nomads of the desert bow before him, and his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
- 11 And let all kings bow down before him, all nations serve him.

- 12 For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help,  
the afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
- 13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy he will save.
- 14 He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,  
and their blood will be precious in his sight;
- 15 So may he live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to him;  
and let them pray for him continually; let them bless him all day long.
- 16 May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains;  
its fruit will wave like *the cedars of Lebanon*;  
and may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth.
- 17 May his name endure forever; may his name increase as long as the sun *shines*;  
and let *men* bless themselves by him; let all nations call him blessed.
- 18 Blessed be YAHWEH God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders.
- 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever;  
and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.
- 20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

#### PRAYER

*Lord God, let all the earth be filled with the majesty of your glory. May idolatry cease forever and the hearts of all peoples be turned to you. Make us, your servants, humble instruments in publishing the glad tidings of peace and salvation, knowing that the fields are ripe for harvest. Let us work untiringly while it is day, for the night soon comes when no man can work. We ask in the name of our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*