

Introduction

- 1 This is the last in our series on Book 2 or Psalms (42-72) – heading is of Solomon, 3rd king
- 2 Most likely Solomon wrote down what his father David had prayed for him just before David died or Solomon wrote it for his present and future sons who would succeed him!
- 3 What goals do you have in mind when starting new things eg exams, move new home, job?
- 4 Much depends on your nature, but hopefully you/I try to think about best outcome for self
- 5 Sol'mon also looked beyond kings of Israel to the glory of the special Messiah King Isa 11:1-5

I 72:1-4 Prayer and Qualities of his Kingdom**1 72:1 Prays God will equip the King to rule with God's special qualities**

- a The king was to represent God before the nation of Israel and surrounding nations
- b King had a big responsibility, so Sol prayed God would give special wisdom, abilities
- c **1 Kings 3:8-12 God asked Solomon what he wanted and Solomon asked for a wise and discerning heart to distinguish right & wrong to rule over all Israel – God answered**

2 72:2-4 He will rule with justice, righteousness, defending the needy and oppressed

- a Exod 23:1-9 law forbids favouritism to poor/rich, denying them justice, accepting bribes
- b Standards of justice should be the same for everyone - innocent set free, guilty judged
- c Righteousness repeated 3 times (72:1,2,3) to show it is most important part of govt.
- d 72:2 Those afflicted with problems whether financial or relationships need justice
- e 72:3 Where govt officers, magistrates, governors at all levels act in right way, God will bless, prosper and bring peace to Israel under the rule of this king – Deut 28:1-14
- f 72:4 King will defend the exploited, children of those in need, judge those who exploit

II 72:5-17 How these qualities will work out in practice**A 72:5-7 His reign will be very long and righteous (right with God), will grow and prosper**

- 1 These verses talk of the king enduring to the end of the sun and moon, end of world
- 2 As the king obeys, God will bless the land by bringing refreshing rains at right times
- 3 72:7 God gave Israel prosperity and peace during Solomon's reign as king **1 Kings 4:25**
"During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel from Dan-Beersheba lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree"

B 72:8-10 He will rule over many nations, who will give him gifts

- 1 Exo 23:31 After Egypt God promised Israel all land from EuphratesE-Mediter'n W-EgyptS
- 2 During Solomon's reign for 1st and only time God blessed Israel which
 - a Ruled over all those areas of land
 - b Had kingdoms of Syria, Damascus, Moab, Ammon
 - c Israel experienced peace with all their neighbours

C 72:11 All kings and nations will bow down to and serve him

- 1 **1 Kings 10:23-25** Happened to Sol.-God blessed him with wisdom, riches so people came from many nations, brought gifts to hear his great wisdom on many subjects eg Proverbs
- 2 72:11 Someone far greater than Solomon will come, many from all over the world will respond to the great work of the Messiah when he died on cross for our sins **Math 12:42**

D 72:12-14 He will have compassion on and rescue the weak, needy and oppressed-72:4

- 1 Psalmist now develops what he started in 72:4, with confidence believing the king will
 - a 72:12 Deliver the needy/afflicted who have no-one to help
 - b 72:13 Take pity on

- the weak/needly **c** save them from death **d 72:14** Rescue them from oppression and violence **e** As their blood is precious in his eyes **f** Help those who suffer wrong
- 2 Although he'll rule from sea to sea-also be concerned for individual men/women/kids
 - 3 Background to this compassion is still God's righteousness, which requires justice
 - a** God doesn't forget sins of the oppressed, any more than he ignores needs of the oppressor
 - b 72:14** "Rescue" in Exodus pictures God's rescue of Israel from Egypt
 - c** Egypt was punished, (God's judgement), while Israel was rescued, (God's mercy)
 - 4 Is picture of God's offer of salvation thru' Jesus' death/resurrection to all **Luke 24:45-47**

E 72:15-17 King's reign will be long, prosperous, worldwide and a blessing to all nations

- 1 **72:15-17** People **are to pray** that God **will bless** the king with growth over a long time
- 2 Many kinds of wealth –gold, wealth of crops, grain, fruit, grass – all from God's hand
- 3 Sol's reign was successful in beginning-Israel's land, peace, wealth, his writings **Prov Eccl**
- 4 May it be the same for spiritual blessings to come when the Messiah comes to earth
- 5 **72:17a** Like God's promises to Abr.**Gen. 12:2-3** - fulfilled in spread of Chn gospel **Acts 1:8**
- 6 **72:17b**Picture of Messiah's coming Kingdom& its worldwide growth **Acts 5:28; 17:6; Col 1:6**

III 72:18-20 David's Doxology praising God forever and that His glory will fill the earth

- 1 Doxology rounds off the Second Book of Psalms (42-72) rather than Psalm 72 by itself
- 2 **72:18-19** Praises Israel's God for all His great works-wants His glory to fill the whole earth
- 3 **72:20** "Prayers" of David "Praise to the Lord" in **72:18,19** are central to Book of Psalms

IV Some very special qualities of this Messiah King in this Psalm – see Isaiah 11:4-5, 1-3

- 1 **72:2** His rule will be one of perfect justice and righteousness-impossible for earthly kings
- 2 **72:14** He will "rescue" people from their sin from all nations who repent, believe in Him,
- 3 **72:11,17 a**He'll bless these new believers who trust/serve Him **b** His name will live forever
 - c** His glory will be seen in Chns' lives as Holy Spirit changes their hearts within-New Cov't
- 4 Jesus commands His followers to be His witnesses to others who do not know Him so He also can rescue them from their sin if they choose to trust in Him and bring glory to Him

V Our personal individual Response to the Glory of the Coming King - Hebrews 12:1-2

- 1 Our main focus as Chns is to run the Ch'n race (marathon) daily looking to Jesus for help
- 2 Why should we do this & how can he help us face daily problems?-Thru' H. Spirit within
- 3 We must fix our eyes on Jesus daily as per **Hebrews 12:2** through help of Holy Spirit
 - King's our perfect role model-resisted temptation/sin even to cross, always obeyed God
 - a** He started Chn faith thru' cross, will end it as Judge - everyone's sinned against God
 - b** Had joy of knowing His death paid price for sin-as fully God/man only He could pay it
 - c** Willingly died despite pain/rejection-only way to remove guilt/reconcile man to God
 - d** Not ashamed of curse for dying on cross – OT - He'd be cursed if died on cross **Gal 3:13**
 - e** After finishing His work of reconciling sinful man back to God - sat at God's right hand
- 4 **Heb 12:1** tells us 3 ways how you and I should respond to this as born-again Christians
 - a** Let us get rid of everything that stops our Christian growth – bad thoughts, habits etc
 - b** Confess/separate from sins we find difficult to stop doing/thinking - don't live holy life
 - c** Run with perseverance marathon Chn race God has set before each one of us **Eph. 2:10**
- 5 **Heb 12:3** reminds Christians not to be tempted to give up, become discouraged and lose heart- always remember the great price Jesus paid to reconcile you and me back to God
- 6 Glory of the King is seen in His great work on cross -How will you and I respond to Jesus?