



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"When THE KING is King"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Psalm 72; Matthew 6:10

Psalm 72 is one of the "Royal Psalms," and it begins with the phrase "*LiShlomo*" – "of Solomon" or "to Solomon." It is both David's prayer for his son as he steps into kingship, and it is a vision of what God's kingdom on earth should look like. David is asking that his son would "king" the way God would "king," that his leadership would reflect the heart and character of God Himself. This psalm is a coronation hymn, but it also stretches far beyond Solomon—it is prophetic, pointing forward to the coming Messianic King, Yeshua.

This psalm forces us to stop and ask a question: what does life look like when God is in charge? People often talk about what the people of God "should" be, but WE are the *ekklesia* —we are God's called-out people. Instead of pointing the finger outward, Psalm 72 invites us to hold up a mirror: is the Kingdom of God ruling where I have influence? Am I embodying His justice and His righteousness in my home, my work, my relationships? This psalm gives us a picture of what life looks like when the King is truly King—and it calls us to live as citizens of that kingdom right now.

1. GOD'S KINGDOM IS DEFINED BY JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

David opens with two petitions: "*Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's son.*" Everything in the psalm flows from these two requests. The foundation of God's kingdom is not power, wealth, or military strength—it is justice (*mishpat*) and righteousness (*tzedakah*). These are God's core values, and when a king governs with them, the people experience flourishing, peace, and security.

Notice the prayer is not that Solomon would come up with his own version of justice or righteousness, but that God would give His. The standard is not cultural opinion or political convenience—it is God's own heart and ways. This is still true today: when we pray for our leaders, our families, and ourselves, the right prayer is not, "God, help me get my way," but, "God, give me Your ways. Shape my judgment to reflect Yours. Give me Your righteousness."

When we embody God's justice and righteousness, the world catches a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. Mountains and hills "bring shalom," the poor are judged with fairness, the afflicted are defended. This is not a passive hope but an active calling: if we want to see the Kingdom, we must live its values. In every space where we have authority—our words, our decisions, our homes, our workplaces—we can choose to "king" the way the Lord "kings."

2. GOD'S KINGDOM LIFTS THE LOWLY AND CRUSHES OPPRESSION

Verses 4–7 focus on the king's responsibility to act like God. He is to vindicate the poor, save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor. This is the opposite of what Samuel warned would happen when Israel chose a human king in 1 Samuel 8. God warned them that earthly kings would take and take—your sons, your daughters, your fields, your freedom—until you cry out for relief. But in God's kingdom, the king does not take from the people; He gives life and protection.

This is why the psalm uses such earthy images: rain on a mown field, showers watering the earth, righteousness flourishing, shalom abounding. God's reign is life-giving. It creates space

for the vulnerable to grow and thrive. His justice is not a cold legal decision—it is compassionate action on behalf of the broken and the oppressed. And this is our calling as representatives of the King. Do I notice those who are crushed by life, or do I ignore them? Do I use my position to serve, to rescue, to redeem—or to protect my own comfort? This psalm calls us to partner with God’s heart in bringing His kingdom near to the most forgotten and hurting people in our world.

3. GOD’S KINGDOM IS FOR ALL NATIONS AND WILL FILL THE EARTH WITH GLORY

Psalm 72 moves from the king’s role in Israel to a global vision: *“May he have dominion from sea to sea ... let all kings bow down before him, all nations serve him.”* This is God’s mission—His kingdom is not for one people only but is to bless all nations. This echoes God’s promise to Abraham that through his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. It also anticipates the Messiah’s reign, when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Yeshua is Lord.

The psalm ends with a prayer that ties it all together: *“Blessed be ADONAI Elohim, who alone does wonders. ... May all the earth be filled with His glory!”* This is the ultimate goal—that God’s glory would fill the earth, that His character would be displayed everywhere, that the world would look like the place God dreamed it to be from the beginning.

For us today, this means we do not simply sit back and wait for God’s kingdom to come. We live as those who believe His kingdom is already breaking in. We plant seeds of righteousness, we work for shalom, we reflect the King’s justice. And we pray with Jesus, *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

CONCLUSION

Psalm 72 ends with the words, *“The prayers of David son of Jesse are complete.”* What a way to finish! David’s last recorded prayer is not for himself but for the next generation, for the world, and for the glory of God. This is the kind of heart God is looking for—one that longs to see His justice, His righteousness, His shalom spread to the ends of the earth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Psalm 72 shape your understanding of what God’s kingdom really looks like?
2. Where do you have influence or authority, and how can you bring God’s justice and righteousness there?
3. In what ways are you tempted to rule like the earthly kings Samuel warned about—taking rather than giving?
4. What practical step can you take this week to “rescue” or “lift up” someone in need?
5. How does the global vision of Psalm 72 affect how you see missions, prayer, and your role in God’s plan?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, our King, we come before You and pray as David prayed. Give us Your justice and Your righteousness. Teach us to live and lead in a way that reflects Your heart. Open our eyes to the needy, the broken, the oppressed around us, and give us courage to act on their behalf. Make our homes, our workplaces, and our lives places where righteousness flourishes and shalom abounds. And Lord, we pray that Your kingdom would come and Your will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. Fill the earth with Your glory, starting with us.

In Yeshua’s name—Amen.