



INVESTIGATE

V15-17: His blessed reign

Do you find the description of growth and life in the kingdom an encouraging one? Why? What does v17b indicate about the scope of the king's ministry, and his impact on our world? See how this echoes the promise God made to Abraham in Gen. 12:2-3. Solomon is painting a picture which is only ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

V18-20:

On what note does this Psalm close? Why are these verses a great way for David (the author of most of the preceding Psalms) to "sign off"?



THINK IT THROUGH

What does the prospect of the universal rule of Jesus the King mean to us? Are we looking forward to it? Reflect on the blessing the Messiah brings at Christmas, and the blessing that believers will bring to Jesus as we worship him.



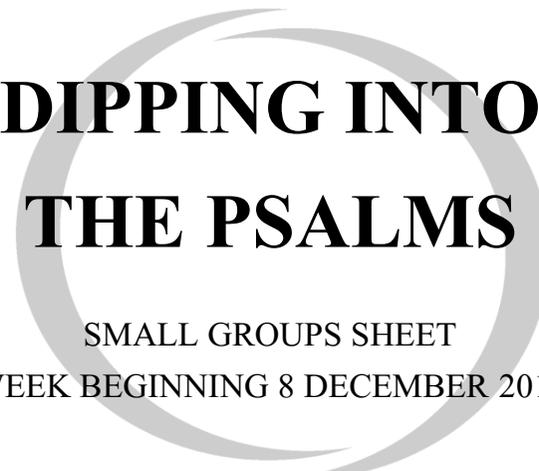
TAKE ACTION

If you are a subject of King Jesus, is there anything in your life that you should be doing differently in the light of verse 11?



PRAY IT THROUGH

- Pray that our country will experience God-given righteousness and justice.
- Thank God that Jesus occupies the throne. Pray with expectancy and anticipation for the reign of his new kingdom.
- Give praise at this Christmas time that "One greater than Solomon has come" (Matt.12:42). A small baby born in a manger, has crushed the oppressor and now reigns & intercedes for us.
- This Christmas pray for a new glimpse of the glory of God made man.



DIPPING INTO THE PSALMS

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 8 DECEMBER 2013

"The Coming King"

Psalm 72

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Two weeks to go before Christmas. What does it conjure up in your mind: Christmas decorations, presents, good food, family get-togethers, and carols? Or do you feel uneasy about the Christmas T.V ads, the commercialisation, and the frenzy in the shops?

None of this was in the mind of King Solomon. He anticipated something at the heart of Christmas: the coming of a perfect King who would bring righteousness and peace –the Messiah, Emmanuel: “God with us”. The true meaning of Christmas.



BACKGROUND

Most of the Psalms were written by King David. But this is likely to have been written by Solomon. It has two aspects: on the one hand Solomon asks God to help him rule wisely and righteously (a footnote indicates that in v2, 3-11, and 17 “He will” may also be read “May he” i.e. in the form of a prayer). But this is also a prophetic passage that looks ahead to a greater King, one that will rule the world endlessly, rescue it and deliver it. Prophecy and prayer come together. No wonder that this Psalm ends on a note of praise, worship and thanksgiving. So this Psalm is all about Christmas!

Read Psalm 72



INVESTIGATE

V1-4: The ideal King

This could be a prayer directed to an O.T monarch (like Solomon) or a future Messiah.

- In either case, what two qualities does he seek?
- Why are they so important?
- How will he show these qualities in practice?

V5-7: His eternal reign

Given the time horizon we are talking about here (v5), whose kingdom must this refer to?

Isaac Watts wrote an old hymn “Jesus shall reign, where’re the sun does his successive journeys run....” He will reign as long as the sun, and longer. His reign will know no end.

What type of reign is described here?

Have we in the West forgotten how “abounding prosperity” and “flourishing righteousness” can work hand in hand in our day?

What will be different when the King arrives?

What are the results of righteousness (Isaiah 32:17)?



THINK IT THROUGH

Why is it so important that, unlike earthly kings and queens, our Messiah King is immortal, “He will endure ... through all generations” (v5)?



INVESTIGATE

V8-11: His global authority

Under Solomon’s reign, an empire was taking shape. How is the king’s influence pictured here? See also 1 Kings 4:21, 34

What are the different ways in which kings, nations and tribes all respond to this king?

What is the common feature?

Certainly, Solomon’s sphere of influence stretched far and wide. But can you see how this is a good description of Jesus Christ’s fast-growing kingdom? See also Col. 1:16-18

V12-14: His tender care

What is so special about this king and his dealings with other kings and nations as well as the under-privileged? How far are these qualities seen in the life and works of Jesus?

What is uniquely prophetic about the king’s “rescue” in v14?



THINK IT THROUGH

If our Church really lives under the authority of its King, what does this Psalm tell us about the type of community we shall we be?