

Valparaiso University

ValpoScholar

Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms

University Archives & Special Collections

2001

Psalm 72: Of Solomon

Walter E. Keller

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Psalm 72
Of Solomon
(NRSV)

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.**
- ² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**
- ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**
- ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live^(a) while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**
- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**
- ⁹ May his foes^(b) bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.**
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**
- ¹⁵ Long may he live!
May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.**
- ¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.**

**17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;^(c)
may they pronounce him happy.**

**18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

**19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.**

20 The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.

Footnotes:

- a. (v.5) Gk: Heb *may they fear you*
- b. (v.9) Cn: Heb *those who live in the wilderness*
- c. (v.17) Or *bless themselves by him*

Psalm 72 is a coronation Psalm traditionally ascribed to Solomon, either for the coronation of this son of David or for the yearly anniversary of his coronation. It is a prayer to God to endow the king with God's own kind of justice and righteousness. That means that his rule should be characterized by impartial and just treatment for the poor and needy against their oppressors, that he should reign over his enemies and thus over all the earth, and that there would be great abundance for all forever. And for all these blessings we offer God our praise.

When Christians pray this Psalm, they will think of its Messianic overtones. Jesus is *the* Son of David, of whom the angel Gabriel spoke to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation, when he said of the Jesus whom she would bear, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." The fulfillment of this Psalm in Christ leaves to the Body of Christ the unfinished task of working toward the final realization of its promise, even as they wait for its coming with faith.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 72 (for Epiphany):

Almighty God, you gave the kingdom of righteousness and peace to David and to his descendant, our Lord Jesus Christ. Extend his kingdom to every nation, so that through your Son the poor may receive justice, the destitute relief, and the people of the earth peace in the name of him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.