

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 ◻ Read Psalm 72:16–20

Questions from the Scripture text: What accompanies the reign of the Forever-King (v16)? Even where (v16b–c)? And where else (v16d)? What continues for how long (v17a)? What will it outlast (v17b)? What is the only way that one will be blessed (v17c)? How many of whom will call the Forever-King what (v17d)? Whom do they call blessed, when they call the Forever-King blessed (v18a)? What does v18b call such a reign and kingship? What will be blessed for how long (v19a, cf. v17a)? What will be filled with what (v19b)? What is this Psalm the ultimate instance of (v19c–20)?

Just Who is the Forever-King? Psalm 72:16–20 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **David's descendant, the Forever-King, is also Yahweh Himself!**

Blessing beyond imagination or expectation, v16. Israel was a church-nation for whom agricultural production was directly tied to faithfulness and blessing. But this is more than rain in season and storehouses having to be cleaned out for a new harvest. This is peak abundance (v16a, c) not just out of season but out of place—from the tops of the mountains (v16b) to the center of the city (v16d).

The blessings of earthly/national Israel were great—much better than the measly things that our flesh constantly desires. But they were just hints, foretastes, shadows of the blessedness that was to come in Christ.

Reign/lifespan beyond that of any mere man, v17. It was already pretty clear that the promised King of 2Sam 7:13, 16 had a reign and lifespan that would be everlasting. Yet, men have been tempted to read it merely in terms of a never-ending *succession of kings*. Scholars have an insufferable trait of either denying or forgetting that these words were written by the grace of God the Holy Spirit, and so posit such follies as “the prophet would not have had the incarnation in mind since that was a later theological development.”

What a pile of interpretive rubbish! God, Who planned every nanosecond of redemption from before time existed, did not need the theology of the incarnation to “develop”! Here is David's own understanding of the promise, even as he writes in honor of his son Solomon (cf. superscript). “His Name shall endure forever; His Name shall continue as long as the sun” (v17c–d). This is truly the Forever-King.

And His reign and fame span not just time but space. *All nations* shall call Him blessed. By the inspiration of the Spirit, David himself had already tied the promises of 2Samuel 7 to those of Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14.

The same that is done with the Forever-King in v17 is done with God in v18–19, because God Himself is the Forever-King.

A King Who is Also Yahweh, v18–19. Yahweh alone does wondrous things (v18b). So, why is the response to those wondrous things in v19 the same as that in v17. Aren't such responses—the blessing of His Name forever (v19a, cf. v17a–b) and the whole earth being filled with His glory/honor (v19b, cf. v17c–d)—reserved for Yahweh alone? Indeed. But they are also shared with the Forever-King from David's line. How can this be? Because the One Who is the Son of David is also the Son of God, as demonstrated by His resurrection (cf. Rom 1:3–4).

As we have seen through the books of Samuel and Kings, no mere man could ever be the King for whom God's people were looking. But, praise be to God, it is the God-Man Who is not only our Prophet and Great High Priest, but also our Everlasting King!

This is not just David's ultimate prayer and praise (v19c, 20), but truly all of creation's ultimate end, and all of providence's ultimate end, and all of redemption's ultimate end: the *unending* praise of Jesus by the entirety of a new heavens and new earth filled with His redeemed and glorified people. Would we have moments of heaven on earth? When we have them the most is when our hearts and mouths are full of the blessing of the Name of Jesus!

How often do You actually bless the Name of Jesus Christ? With what genuineness and intensity of heart do you do so? What produces this praise of Him in you? With whom else do you do so now? With whom else will you do so forever?

Sample prayer: Lord, truly there is blessedness in You for us, beyond what we could ask or think. You have already given us Your own Son, Whom You did not spare for our sakes. Surely, having given what eye could not see, nor could ear hear, nor our hearts devise, You will now also freely give us all things, together with Him! His Name endures forever, longer than the sun. And here we are, blessing the Name of Jesus Christ thousands of miles and thousands of years away from His life and death and resurrection on earth. Indeed, Lord Jesus, You are the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! Blessed be Your glorious Name forever! Fill the whole earth with Your glory! Help us by Your Spirit to worship You now, and hasten the day when You return, and all nations worship You perfectly forever, we ask in Your own Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72C “May Waving Grain on Hilltops Thrive” or TPH72A “O God, Your Judgments Give the King”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 72. Verses 16 through 20. These are God's words. There will be an abundance of grain in the earth on the top of the mountains. It's fruit shall wave like lebanon. And those of the city shall flourish. Like grass of the earth. His name shall endure forever. His name shall continue.

As long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in him. Old nations shall call him. Blessed. Blessed, be all they got. The god of israel. Who only does wondrous things. And blessed, be his glorious name, forever. And let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen. And amen.

The prayers of david. The son of Jesse. Are ended. So far the reading of god's inspired and And they're into worked. So we come to the end of this song that is written by david as we have just read in the last verse On. Uh, the occasion of or for the sake of his son Solomon.

Which we read in, what is the first verse of the psalm? In the hebrew, but in our english bibles, we find it in the superscript. David responding to the promise about his descendant. Uh, who's throne would be established forever and ever? As he was told in second, Samuel chapter 7.

And david understands that this is not, A descendant of his who is only a man. Uh, just as jesus points out in psalm 110. When David says the lord said to my lord, he says if his david's descendant, how can he also be david's lord? And They are unable to answer.

David knows that his descendant is going to be. His lord. As romans one verse 3, says, the son of david according to the flesh. Uh, but then follows the Romans one verse 4 with The son of god with power that jesus was revealed to be the son of god.

Uh, by the spirit of god. When he rose again from the dead in, romans one, and verse 4. So david Uh, new sorry. That Christ is revealed to be. Did i say anything

correctly? The christ is revealed to be the son of david, verse 3 and the son of god verse 4 and david knew.

That the christ would be. The son of god as we see here. In this passage. That the forever king. As one who's blessedness and in whom, Has subjects. Blessedness is greater than that. Could be the could be for any earthly king. Uh, israel was A special. Church nation. Uh, tied to a particular land.

And their faithfulness and walking with the lord had attached to it, covenant blessings like the early end latter rains. And harvests. So great that Every year you if you know, as long as this row is faithful, they'd be clearing the old harvest out of the store houses. To make room for the new.

But what we see in verse 16 is even greater. Then maximal abundance, where it belongs. And that is abundance where it is impossible. There will be abundance and abundance of grain in the earth and you think, okay. The fields are really going to produce well. But then the second line of verse 16, On the top of the mountains.

He said, oh, Okay, well i guess it'll produce a little bit on the top of the mountains. Nope, on the top of the mountains, it's fruit. Shall wave. Like lebanon the most fertile area that they know of, at this time, Uh, the tops of the mountains, okay? Um, and Of those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

Um, So far, uh, he's been talking about the abundance of grain and the fruitfulness of the land. It's probably not man, it could be men. In 16d. But i think the location is, what is? Uh, causing translators just to say those of the city make it sound like men.

Uh, but Here, even the city is going to bear. Fruit like this and that's actually what you see pictured in the Uh, in the poetic language at the end of revelation, don't you? A city. Uh, but that is full of life, even the tree of life, Throughout the city.

And so there's an abundance here that takes The covenant blessings of having been bound to god faithfully as a people. And goes even beyond what is promised towards the end of Leviticus even beyond was promised. Uh, towards the end of deuteronomy something. That is really beyond the scope of this nation.

And even of this world and this life, And, The, the fullness of that, we start to see when we compare verse 17 with verses 18 and 19. Because verse 17 says some things says, some final things about the king And then verses 18 and 19. Turn around and say the same things, but now about yahweh.

Uh, saying that this belongs only to yahweh Well at verse 17 says it about the king and verses 18 and 19 say that these things are only true of yahweh. What do you have to conclude about verse? The the verse 17 king Well, he's your way. His name shall endure forever.

His name shall continue as long as the sun and men shall be blessed in him. And then you look that verse 19 and you see blessed, be his glorious name forever, All nations. So call him blessed. Verse 17 and then verse 19 and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

With his honor. And hinging those two things together. Just after saying all nations. So call him blessed. With the one hand, at the end of verse 17, verse 18 says, blast be yahweh. God. The god of israel. That's his name. He is the lord. And that's the name that is above all names.

Not just in the earth like psalm 72 said. As the apostle is picking that up about jesus who humbled himself to become a man, son of david. According to the flesh. There's exalted in his resurrection. And having. Have been found in. Humbled himself to take the The form of a bond slave and being founded appearance as a man humbled himself to death and the death of the cross.

For this reason, god is highly exalted him. Resurrection, demonstrated to be the son of god with power and given him. The name that is above Every other name. Not just that he is king of kings and lord of lords. But then when every knee bow and every tongue confesses like, we see fulfilled, Uh, Like we see prophesied rather.

In last week's portion in the middle of this psalm, what do they confess? That jesus christ is lord. Unto the glory of god, the father. That jesus is yahweh. And that his glory, as Yahweh. Is one glory with the glory of the father, as yahweh And so, If you read and understand philippians 2 rightly, As an a Rejoicing over the fulfillment of psalm 72 about the forever king.

And his forever life. And his reign in which not only does he fear god, but he reproduces in his subjects, the mind that is in himself so that they fear God, as a result of his reign in their hearts. Like, we've been seeing this on, when you understand Philipians 2.

As an opening of an applying of Psalm 72 and it rejoicing over you realize, The holy spirit through david and david with some level of understanding. Is prophesying as teaching. Uh, the doctrine of the trinity here and the doctrine of the incarnation here. As he makes us to long for.

Not just the The incarnation which takes place, not it, jesus's birth. Which we are. Disproportionately overweight on thinking about because of the man-made traditions that have been added. But the incarnation takes place that jesus is conception. As one third, psalm 139 Rejoices in. And, Incarnation. Um, Is fine. But what this is looking forward to, what we are looking forward, to is the return of jesus christ.

Is the final fullness of the kingdom. Where the devil has been finally. And Destroyed and death. The last enemy has been destroyed and the people have not just been redeemed, but have been sanctified and glorified And where the the name of christ and the theme of christ and the reign of christ have outlasted the sun.

And david is pushing us to that. As he prophesies about the reign of christ. And he tells us. This this king. To to who's praise has crescended diverse 17 and then it gets even louder. Because the same. Praise and prophecy. About the king in verse 17. Is now revealed to be about yahweh god.

The god of israel. And so when we say every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that jesus christ is lord, We're agreeing with psalm 72, verses 17 through 19. Jesus is Yahweh. And this will be the great praise of him. Onto the glory of the tribun god.

For unending ages. No wonder. Then the end of verse 19 ends with amen and amen. And verse 20, The prayers of david, the son of Jesse. Are ended. In the arrangement that we have by the providence of the spirit. There are other Davidic psalms still to come. Um, the spirit tells us that psalm 95 is by david.

And we know we already quoted Psalm 110. As being by david and there are others. But this is the ultimate psalm. This is the ultimate song. That jesus christ.

The forever king. As yahweh. Who not only gets everything that is prophesied about him. But even conforms us to his own image.

And puts the mind in us. That was in christ, jesus. That we would be humbled that we would fear God. That we would be made like our savior. What a wonderful song that we got to spend. These three weeks in let's pray.

Oh lord, we pray that you would give us of your spirit. A knowledge of christ that we would. Acknowledge. These truths from your word about. You as our triune god and him. As fully god and fully man. And his incarnation in the womb. And his atoning death and resurrection.

And victorious, rain and second coming. Lord. Give us not just to understand these truths. And be able to think about our articulate them correctly. But give our hearts to be gripped by them, that we would be blessed and in That our hearts would be full of The happiness and goodness.

And power of his name. Of who he is, who has done this. And what it is that this one has done for us. Make us to live with joy and worship of christ. Make this to live with confidence. As subjects of the everlasting kingdom. As those who expect to blessing, that isn't even possible.

To be finally fulfilled in this world, but belongs. To another world and an everlasting life. Make us to live by faith in jesus. We ask And his name. Amen.