

## **Ps. 72:8-11 "Let All Bow Down"**

**For the Children:** Every great, powerful or famous person we read about in the history books was once a baby. If you had seen them when they were first born, you might have said you could never imagine that they would grow up to do such great things. Little babies do not look very powerful. No one would have thought that the baby Jesus would grow up to rule the world, if God had not given prophecies about Him in the Old Testament – and sent His Holy Spirit to convince some people that the King of the world was lying in a manger. Now that we know who He is, we should submit to His rule; obey His Word; worship the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and offer ourselves serve Him. **Questions:** Which enemies did the Lord Jesus defeat? How can we serve Him today? Since the nations do not all serve the Lord at present, does this mean that Ps. 72:8-11 was wrong?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: Let the King Rule Everywhere**

- 1) Solomon's Psalm: This is a Psalm of Solomon, in which he prays for the welfare of the Davidic King – including himself and his descendants. He prays on the basis of God's promises regarding this kingly line – such as in 2 Sam. 7. More than a prayer, it foretells the future of this dynasty, which reaches its high-point in Christ, the Son of David.
- 2) The Promise of a Universal Kingdom: God had promised a great kingdom for Israel under the Davidic kings. See Ex. 23:31. The promise was partially fulfilled under Solomon (1 Kgs. 4:21). However, Israel's disobedience led to the gradual removal of Israel's territory. Many realized that the King who would rule to the ends of the earth (Ps. 72:8) must be the Messianic King.
- 3) The Messianic Rule: Christ is greater than Solomon (Mt. 12:42). He was born of David's line and was viewed by Herod as a threat to his kingdom (Mt. 2). He was born in Bethlehem as Mic. 5:2 foretold of the Messianic Shepherd-King. See also Mt. 2:6. All authority is His and all things are in subjection to His universal reign (Mt. 28:18; Heb. 2:8). The truth of that will be seen fully when He returns. The proper response to this truth is to subject ourselves willingly to Christ's rule.

#### **Second Point: Let All Serve Him**

- 1) Service to the King: V. 11 foretells that all nations will serve the king. "Service" includes bowing down to him, obeying him and presenting him with gifts. The reference to kings from various places doing so shows again the universal scope of this prophecy. This was also partially fulfilled with Solomon (1 Kings. 10:23-25).
- 2) Greater Service to a Greater King: The greater fulfillment of this prophecy comes with the Messianic King – though not by identifying the "nomads" of v. 9 with the shepherds of Lk. 2, or the kings of v. 10 with the magi of Mt. 2. The fulfillment is seen in the Gospel bringing in people from all over the world, to offer themselves and their resources, to worship the Triune God and to obey His Word. The magi were part of that fulfillment as they were Gentiles who brought kingly gifts to the infant Jesus. The proper response to this is for us to serve the Lord Jesus with our lives, our resources, our obedience and our worship of the Triune God.

#### **Third Point: Let All His Enemies Be Defeated**

- 1) The Defeat of Israel's Enemies: V. 9 foretells the defeat of the enemies of the Davidic kings. This was partially fulfilled in the time of David and Solomon. But once again, the promise looked forward to a greater defeat of greater enemies, at the hands of the Messianic King.
- 2) Messiah's Victory: In His first coming, Christ defeated Satan, sin and death, for our salvation. When he returns, Satan and his fallen angels, human allies of the devil – all who are hostile to the Lord Jesus – will be judged by Him and cast into hell. This leads to the response of Psalm 2: all kings, judges and people should do homage to the Son, lest they kindle His wrath by their rebellion. If they do take refuge in Him, they will be richly blessed.

### **Conclusion:**

