

**May 16**

**Scriptures:** Read Psalms 72 & 73

**Key Verse:** “You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”  
(Psalm 73:24)

## **Overview**

Psalm 72 is one of the two psalms ascribed to Solomon in the title (the other being Psalm 127). The final verse of this psalm indicates that this psalm is the last within the second book of the prayers of David, but does not necessarily indicate Davidic authorship. It appears that it is a hymn to be used at the coronation of a descendant of David in Judah. However, from the contents it is clear that no earthly king could ever fulfill all the beautiful words spoken. Jewish tradition understood this psalm to be Messianic, as did the early church. It depicts the peaceful reign of the Great Son of David, Jesus Christ. Kingship was not only determined by descent, but by divine appointment, for Israel was under a theocracy (rule of God), and her kings were subjected to the Great King. Since Jesus was from the House of David, He had an inherited right to kingship, as well as divine authority to be King. The Messiah’s reign will be the only truly righteous reign, since God will govern. All people will be judged impartially, and there will no longer be any oppressors (72:1-4).

Christ’s universal dominion (millennial reign) will be characterized by peace and the flourishing of the righteous, for all will fear Him. There will be continual prayer and praise to Him and an absence of enemy uprisings — therefore, no war. All nations will be subjected to Christ; they will worship and bless Him. He will care for the needy, so there might be no needy people, but there will be an abundance for everyone. Only of Jesus Christ the King can it be said that His name will endure forever and the whole earth will be filled with His glory (Philippians 2:9-11). What a glorious hope we as believers have in Christ Jesus!

Psalm 73 was composed by Asaph, one of David’s Levitical choir leaders, whose songs were later sung by the Levitical choir during Hezekiah’s reign (1 Chron. 15:16-19; 2 Chron. 29:30). He was struggling with the prosperity of the wicked and the sufferings of the righteous (also dealt with in the Book of Job and Psalm 37), yet he knew that those whose hearts were clean before God (and not merely ceremonially clean) were blessed by God (73:1). Even so, he nearly slipped in his faith, for he felt offended and angered when he saw that the wicked were enjoying wealth and getting wealthier. They were healthy and lived at ease, even though they were proud and did not fear God, nor did they even believe God could see and hear them; they were so ungodly that they questioned His very existence (73:11).

Doubts had crept into the psalmist’s mind about his own spirituality. Was it worthwhile? Does it make any difference? He thought for a moment that he might be better off if he went the way of the wicked (73:13-14). He knew, however, that as a spiritual leader, he was responsible to his generation and it was painful for him to even imagine a whole generation lost because of his rash words; so he dared not voice his doubts and complaints lest he lead anyone astray (73:15). The troublesome dilemma stayed with him until he took his concerns to the Lord in prayer within God’s sanctuary, where he would have worshipped God and meditated on His Word. This was

the turning point. Finally he was enlightened! He understood that God's justice and judgment would be dealt out to the wicked in their latter end when they would perish (73:18-20; 27), and it was only because of His grace that He did not consume them immediately.

The psalmist was now no longer envious but grieved because of his foolishness and carnal mindedness in doubting the importance of following God's ways and living a pure and righteous life. He realized that with God's continual guidance and counsel (by prayer and meditating on God's Word), God would one day receive him to glory. What a remarkable revelation about heaven and eternal life, the hope of glory for the believer! The psalmist now resolves to trust in the Lord and draw closer to Him, that he may be a witness for God (73:28).

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, we know that one day You will come to rule and reign, bringing perfect peace and filling the whole earth with Your glory. May we keep an eternal perspective in this present life, causing us to rest in You and reach the lost.