

Bible Study on Psalms

Royal Psalms – Follow Your King

These royal psalms include prayers by kings, God's people for their ruler and they give us a portrait of Christ, our perfect King.

A few psalms that fit into this category are Psalms 21, 45, 72, and 132.

Psalm 21

Read Psalm 21 and work through these questions.

1. In Psalm 21 God's people praise him for a victory he gave their king in battle. With what words in vv. 1 & 7, does the king-David- credit the Lord for this victory?
2. Besides victory in this particular battle, what other blessings has God granted David?
Verses 2-6
3. In the next section of this psalm (vv. 8-12), the people hail the future victories their kings will enjoy because of God's power. These verses also point to the ultimate victory Jesus, our King, will have on Judgment Day. What images in these verses point to Jesus' ultimate victory over evil?
4. As you think about the evils that threaten the church of our Savior, His believers, how do the words of verses 8-12 give you comfort?

Psalm 45

Read Psalm 45 and work through these questions.

1. Verses 2-5 describe the majesty of our King, Jesus. Reread them along with the NT reference. Then describe the truth about Jesus each reference provides.
 - a. Verse 2; Luke 4:22...
 - b. Verse 3; Revelation 1:16...
 - c. Verse 4; Revelation 6:2...
 - d. Verse 5; Romans 15:12...
2. How is Christ's deity described in verse 6?
3. The king's bride is described in vv. 10-15. What is the bride directed to do?
4. The "bride" in this psalm foreshadows Christ's bride-his church. As members of Christ's church through faith in Jesus, what do these verses say to you and all believers?

Psalm 72

Read Psalm 72 and work through these questions.

1. Psalm 72 is a prayer for the king, perhaps Solomon. In it, we see God's blueprint for the perfect king. According to verse 1, what two gifts does the psalmist ask that God give?
2. Verses 5-14 further describe the king, his kingdom, and what the king does for his people.
 - a. What 2 concepts (vv. 5 & 7) summarize the quality of the king's reign?
 - b. How do governments today reflect God's justice and righteousness?
 - c. How far will the king's domain extend? (vv.8-11)
 - d. What human needs does Jesus meet today as our Savior?
3. Verses 18-20 are not considered a part of the prayer that comprises the earlier part of this psalm. Looking at the language, what do these verse serve?

Psalm 132

Read Psalm 132 and work through these questions.

4. In this prayer, the psalmist mentions two promises-David's and God's.
 - a. What was David's vow to God? (vv. 4-5)...
 - b. What was God's vow to David? (vv. 11-12)...
5. What assurances are offered up in verses 13-18?
6. Compare verses 16-17 with Luke 1:69-71. In both texts the word "horn" symbolizes strength. How is this word especially descriptive of Jesus our King?
7. Reread verses 16-17, keeping in mind the Kingdom of Grace-Christ's church. How do they apply?

After reading and rereading a psalm, ask yourself these questions. What words or phrases stick out to you? How do these words or phrases reveal the poet's purpose for the psalm? What effect does this psalm have on you as you meditate on it?