

Bible Study on Psalms

Royal Psalms – Follow Your King

Psalm 21

1. The king relied on the Lord's strength to win the battle. Verse 7 says that the king "trusts in the Lord and his love. The king is secure in God. As the center of this psalm, verse 7 emphasizes the importance of the king's faith in God.
2. The people thank God for granting their king "the desire of his heart" and for not withholding the "requests of his lip" (v. 2); for giving him rich blessings and a "crown of pure gold" (v. 3) for sparing his life and for giving him eternal life through faith (v. 4); for bestowing on him "glory...splendor and majesty" (v. 5); and for being with him (v. 6). Note that the "crown of pure gold" mentioned in verse 3 might have referred to the riches captured in battle.
3. Images in these verses that point to Jesus' ultimate victory over evil include: "Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies" (v. 8); "The will swallow them up, and his fire will consume them" (v. 9); "You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from mankind" (v. 10). According to these verses, the power and might of the Lord will destroy every enemy that rises against him and his people.
4. For the believer, verses 8-12 are words of comfort. As we suffer the effects of sin's corruption and chaos in the world around us, these words remind us that God is in control. He does indeed have power, and will eventually end all the influence of sin and Satan. We can be certain of this because Jesus has already gained the victory over sin, death, and Satan through his death and resurrection. The verses of this psalm paint a powerful picture of our active and all-powerful God, who promises to take action to preserve and to rescue us, his people, his family.

Psalm 45

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. In the psalm, the King's lips "have been anointed with grace." In Luke 4:22, the words that come from Jesus' mouth are gracious." God has given us the riches of forgiveness and everlasting life through Jesus, his Son, whom he has anointed as our Savior and King. Jesus is God's Word of grace to us.
 - b. The sword of the King in both references symbolizes divine judgment, authority. Ultimately, the sword is God's Word. God has given Jesus his authority, as well as the right and to judge.
 - c. These verses speak of the King riding victoriously, as a conqueror. Jesus is the one who conquered sin, death, and Satan for us.

- d. These references speak of the King ruling over nations. God has exalted Jesus as King and Ruler over all the earth.
2. The psalmist calls the King “God.” The verse also says that the king’s reign is eternal and just.
 3. The bride is directed to forget her people and her father’s house and to be totally loyal to husband, the king.
 4. As believers in Jesus, we are to honor Christ above all our other loyalties. This does not justify the practice of the cults which require members to sever all outside ties, even family ties. Rather, it refers to placing total loyalty and owing all allegiance to Christ as the ultimate authority.

Psalm 72

1. The psalmist asks for God to give the king “Your [God’s] justice and “Your righteousness.
2. Verses 5-14 further describe the king, his kingdom, and what the king does for his people.
 - a. The king’s reign is enduring and prosperous.
 - b. The king’s domain will extend from “sea to sea” and “to the ends of the earth.” The nations mentioned in verse 10 (Tarshish, Sheba, and Seba) represented the extremities of the known world for the Israelites. As applied to Jesus as King, people of every nation will come to faith in him. On the very last day, every living being, both those saved and those condemned, will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King.
 - c. As our Savior, Jesus had compassion on the weak and poor. He healed the sick. He raised people from the dead. Most important, Jesus delivered us, who were spiritually poor and helpless because of our sin, from its bondage and from spiritual and eternal death. Only Jesus, God’s Son and his anointed King, can give these blessings.
3. No doubt some of the blessings mentioned will note the ultimate fulfillment of God’s justice and righteousness in the rule of Christ Jesus.

Psalm 132

4. In this prayer, the psalmist mentions two promises-David’s and God’s.
 - a. David vowed to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. He also vowed to “find a place for the.” It was David’s plan to build a permanent temple for God in Jerusalem during his reign as king.

- b. The promises God made to David as recorded in 2 Samuel 7 are: God would make David's name great; God would plant his people in Israel where they would grow and flourish; God would protect his people from their enemies; God would establish a "house" dynasty for David; David's descendants would succeed him on the throne – ultimately this promise would come true in Christ Jesus; God promised to establish David's throne for eternity through Jesus, the Messiah.
5. These verses offer assurance that the earlier petitions of the psalmist would be granted.
6. The word "horn" as used in these verses is especially descriptive of Jesus because as God, Jesus had the strength to resist temptation and to live a perfect life to be the perfect sacrifice God required for our sins. Jesus had the strength to bear our sins and to suffer for them on the cross. Then Jesus had the power to come alive again to proclaim his victory for us over sin, death, and Satan forever.
7. We, Christ's "priests," are clothed with his splendid righteousness. We, Christ's saints sing for joy in his love. Christ is our strength and our light, the one who has defeated sin, death and who now reigns, "resplendent" in glory over us.

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?