

THE PROMISED KING: Week 2 12.15.13

[set up]

Describe a time in your life when you suffered some form of injustice. How did you handle it?

What is an injustice in the world today that bothers you? Describe something that makes you want to pound the table and say, "This simply cannot go on! Something has to change!" Or describe a kind of oppression that brings tears to your eyes.

[digging deeper]

As a group, read Psalm 72. Reader 1: Psalm 72:1. Reader 2: Psalm 72:-4. Reader 3: Psalm 72:5-7. Reader 4: Psalm 72:8-11. Reader 5: Psalm 72:12-14. Reader 6: Psalm 72:15-17. Reader 7: Psalm 72:18-19. Reader 8: Psalm 72:20.

Notice the opening superscript: "Of Solomon" and the words of verse 20. How would you explain how the chapter could be both Solomon's and David's?

Psalm 72 is a prayer of a father for his son. What would be some things that you would recommend that a parent's prayer for a child based on this chapter?

Psalm 72 is a prayer for a political leader. Read I Timothy 2:1-2. How are you doing praying for our elected officials, starting with our President? How might Psalm 72 help you pray for those in positions of governmental authority? What are themes we should pray for?

Psalm 72 is also a Messianic Psalm. What are some verses in this Psalm that cause us to believe that this Psalm cannot be only about Solomon's reign, but that it also must be about the kingdom of the coming King? See Isaiah 9:6-7 and Zechariah 9:9-10.

In verses 1-4, what three qualities will the king bring his people? What should he do about oppression? Why aren't the middle and upper classes mentioned? See James 5:1-6.

According to vv. 5-7, how long will the king rule? According to v. 8, what will be the boundaries for the kingdom? According to vv. 9-11, how will the nations respond? Since no Israelite king ever ruled such vast territory, what must be the time frame for the fulfillment of this prayer?

See Genesis 12:3. How does verse 17 relate to Abraham? To Christ?

Scan Revelation 21-22 and look for passages that show how the kingdom of the King fulfills the requests that David made in his Psalm 72 prayer. In other words, where are eternal and universal righteousness, justice, and prosperity demonstrated in Revelation 21-22?

The header features a horizontal bar with five colored segments: light blue, green, brown, dark brown, and orange. To the right, a large, faint circular logo contains a stylized white figure, possibly a dove or a person, set against a grey background.

[living it out]

In order for this Christmas to be more meaningful, we must not focus on the “what” but on the “Who” – on the Promised King. This “Who” – this Promised King will bring about His perfect justice in His perfect way in His perfect time. When it comes to perfect justice, we must trust the “Who” for the “when.” Read and discuss how Romans 12:17-21 might apply to your life as you trust the “Who” for the “when.”

When we have suffered unjustly, how can knowing that “justice delayed is not justice denied” help us love others better as we live in this world?

As we live under the rule of our coming King, then (knowing it’s a fallen world and that perfection isn’t possible until Christ returns to set up His forever kingdom) we must also seek to bring righteousness, justice, and prosperity wherever and however we can. What has God been saying to you about seeking to live out the King’s values in this present world? What is God calling you to change? How might this impact your Missional Living? Please encourage your LifeGroup members to volunteer in a Missional cause. You can point them to <http://www.cvconline.org/serve/local-regional/> for ideas about where and how to serve.

Francis Chan once wrote, “Lukewarm people think about life on earth much more often than eternity in heaven. Daily life is mostly focused on today’s to-do list, this week’s schedule, and next month’s vacation. Rarely, if ever, do they intently consider the life to come. Regarding this, C.S. Lewis wrote, ‘If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this’ (Philippians 3:18-20; Colossians 3:2).” How should a sure knowledge that the kingdom of the King is coming reorient the way we live our lives?

As you close your time together, spend some time praying about these three areas: 1) Use truths from Psalm 72 to pray for the children represented in the families of your group, 2) Use truths from Psalm 72 to pray for our government officials, and 3) Use truths from Psalm 72 to pray for LifeGroup members to be missionaries – servants in the kingdom of the King – who seek to bring about justice specific domains of the world in the here and now so that others can Live New, too.