

Songs
of the
Son



Advent in the Psalms

Psalm 72

**¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!**

**² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

**³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!**



Psalm 72

**⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

**⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!**

**⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**



Psalm 72

**⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

**⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

**⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!**



Psalm 72

**¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!**

**¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**

**¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.**



Psalm 72

**¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

**¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**¹⁵ Long may he live;
may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all the day!**



Psalm 72

**¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land;
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field!**

**¹⁷ May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in him,
all nations call him blessed!**



Psalm 72

**¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

**¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!**

Amen and Amen!

²⁰ The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.



Outline

1. **The cry for justice**
2. **The kingdom of justice**
3. **The arrival of justice**



1. The cry for justice

Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14



Psalm 72:1-4

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the royal son!

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give deliverance to the children of the needy,

and crush the oppressor!



TIMOTHY KELLER

New York Times Bestselling Author of
The Reason for God and *The Prodigal God*

GENEROUS JUSTICE

How God's Grace Makes Us Just

Tim Keller answering the question, "What is justice?"

- **Justice includes both punishing wrongdoing and giving people their rights**
- **Justice is essentially "to treat people equitably"**
- **Concerned with the "quartet of vulnerable" - widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor**
- **"Biblical justice is inevitably social because it is about relationships"**
- **"If you are trying to live a life in accordance with the bible, the concept and call to justice are inescapable"**

Psalm 72:12-14

**¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.**

**¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

**¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**



Deuteronomy 10:17-18

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.



Psalm 146:5, 7, 9

**⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God...**

**⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free...

**⁹ The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**



Zechariah 7:8-10

And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, ¹⁰ do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”



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GENEROUS JUSTICE

How God's Grace Makes Us Just

“In premodern, agrarian societies, these four groups had no social power. They lived at subsistence level and were only days from starvation if there was any famine, invasion, or even minor social unrest. Today, this quartet would be expanded to include the refugee, the migrant worker, the homeless, and many single parents and elderly people... [The] justness of a society, according to the Bible, is evaluated by how it treats these groups. Any neglect shown to the needs of the members of this quartet is not called merely a lack of mercy or charity, but a violation of justice... God loves and defends those with the least economic and social power, and so should we.”

1. The cry for justice

Objection: Isn't this just the concern of liberal socialists, cultural Marxists, and progressive post-evangelicals?

→ Answer: Justice is a biblical concept: God is just and requires justice from us (Micah 6:8). But we need to be sure to base our views of justice on Scripture.



Micah 6:8

**He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?**



2. The kingdom of justice

Psalm 72



2. The kingdom of justice

This is a royal psalm (v. 1) — originally a prayer for (or by) Solomon (see 1 Kings 3–10).



2. The kingdom of justice

Problem: Just like Solomon, no human kings or kingdoms are perfectly just and righteous. Even the best rulers are somehow complicit in injustice.

→ *Psalm 72 points forward to a better king who will reign over an eternal kingdom.*



Psalm 72:8-9,11

**⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

**⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust! ...**

**¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**



Zechariah 9:9-10

**⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**



Zechariah 9:9-10

**¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea, (quoting Ps. 72:8)
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**



Psalm 72:17

**May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in him,
all nations call him blessed!**



3. The arrival of justice

Psalm 72:17



Psalm 72:17

**May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in him,
all nations call him blessed!**



Genesis 12:2-3

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. . .



Matthew 3:15

But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”



Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”



3. The arrival of justice

→ Justice arrived in the advent of Jesus who came to bring justice to the nations, not through the point of a sword but through his self-sacrifice on the cross.



Summary

1. **The cry for justice**
2. **The kingdom of justice**
3. **The arrival of justice**

