

## Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

### **Christ as King - Prophecy Psalm 72 by Kathy Mathew w/c Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Psalm 72 is sometimes called a Coronation Psalm and is also known as one of the 'royal psalms'. There is some controversy among Bible commentators as to who wrote it - Solomon or David. In verses 1-2 he prays asking that he (or his son) be granted wisdom in carrying out his duties, for his prosperity and the hope that he will rule with justice and righteousness. God desires all who rule under him to be righteous and just. How the world would change if world leaders today would commit themselves to these two qualities!

In verses 3-17 the psalmist moves into prophetic mode and for many scholars these verses are messianic and point to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The psalmist speaks of an everlasting kingdom, a kingdom of perfect peace, where the needy and weak are cared for, a kingdom through which all peoples on earth are blessed. These passages could only refer to the Kingdom of Christ who will rule as the perfect leader! In verses 16-17 we have a picture of an age of prosperity with an abundance of grain and fruitful mountain tops as the Lord returns and the earth is restored. Today two thirds of the world's population live below the poverty level with a large percentage of these suffering from a lack of food. A lot of this is due to the greed of man and corruption of the nations' rulers.

**Q 1. God cares for the needy and they are precious to Him. Do we regularly ignore them?**

**Think of the ways that our church is reaching out with God's love to those in need. Can we do more and if so what could we do? Examine yourself- what are you doing?**

It is interesting to note that the word **bless** comes up 4 times in verses 15 – 20. It's meaning can change in different contexts.

**Q.2 Think about it. We bless the land, bless one another, ask God to bless others - how are these different? What do we mean when we bless God? Can you put it into words?**

**Q.3 A prayer of blessing for someone often carries with it the desire that even more people will be blessed as a result. Who could you pray a blessing for today and what impact could the blessing have on others?**

The Psalm ends with words of praise for the Lord and concludes with 'Amen and Amen' expressing the desire of the psalmist that all that has been said will come to pass.

The coronation in the UK is an occasion for pageantry and celebration but it is a solemn religious ceremony and has remained essentially the same over 1000 years. In her coronation ceremony in June 1953, our Queen took the coronation oath and she promised to rule according to the law, to exercise justice with mercy, to maintain and preserve the church and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government. She then moved to the altar and kneeling, with her right hand on the Bible swore this oath. "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep.". The Queen was then anointed by the Archbishop and as he did so, he whispered these words: "*Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed King by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be you the anointed, blessed and consecrated Queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern.*" This is a noteworthy connection to early Hebrew practice as the words Messiah and the Christ are Hebrew and Greek for "the anointed one" the promised deliverer of the Jewish people. I think we would all agree that we have been blessed with a dedicated Queen who not only has strong faith but has the qualities and attributes that David advocates for his son in Psalm 72.