

PRAYER FOR POLITICIANS

Wednesday, May 16

Reading: Psalm 72

Psalm 72:1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. *2* May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

Sometimes our government can seem like a three ring circus. Satirist Will Rogers (1879-1935) had a lot to say about politics and many of his observations still hold true today. Below are few examples of his humor.

- I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.
- A fool and his money are soon elected.
- Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing, and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even.
- About all I can say for the United States Senate is that it opens with a prayer and closes with an investigation.

Psalm 72 was written for politicians...or more accurately for kings. It is one of only two psalms that have the name of David's son Solomon's connected to it. Many believe it was written for the coronation of Solomon as Israel's king. In its lines we will find suggestions for how to pray for our government and its leaders.

1. We should pray that government would be a spring of justice and fairness (73:1-3; 12-14). God ordained government to keep order and punish evil (Rom. 13:1-4).
2. We should pray that government will be a defender of the poor and helpless (73:4, 12-14). Power tends to corrupt; it uses people for its own purposes. The poor are often the victims of this tragedy. When we read the Bible it is impossible to miss the truth that God has deep concern for those who cannot help themselves.
3. We should pray that government brings peace and refreshment to its people (73:5-7). The psalmist pictures the king like refreshing rain that replenishes and renews the earth. Prosperity and growth abound when a ruler reigns in righteousness.
4. We should pray that government will be an agent of peace in the world (73:8-14). The mention of kings bowing down and bringing gifts symbolize peace treaties made with other nations either at the end of wars or through diplomatic means. The mention again of the oppressed in this context reminds us to pray for peace and justice not only for those in our country but those suffering around the world.
5. We should pray that our government leaders follow God (73:18-19). The only way true justice and righteousness can occur is when God is at the center. We need to pray for the salvation of our leaders and boldness to stand for the things of God even when they are not popular.

After reading this psalm we realize that no human government has ever met this standard. Even Solomon became a cruel dictator in the end. For centuries when reading this psalm Bible scholars have looked past David and Solomon to that future "son of David" - the Messiah. The only King who will accomplish perfect justice, peace, and righteousness is Jesus Christ when He returns to rule and reign. Only then will the promises of this psalm be fully realized. Until then it is our duty as God's people to pray for our imperfect government and its leaders as we wait for God's perfect kingdom still to come.

¹ <https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com/culture/arts-entertainment/will-rogers-on-politics-10-withering-hilarious-quotes/>