Psalm 72 The Reign of the Righteous King.

A Psalm of Solomon.

Give the king Your judgments, God, And Your righteousness to the king's son. 2 May he judge Your people with righteousness and your afflicted with justice. 3 May the mountains bring peace to the people, And the hills, in righteousness.

4 May he vindicate the afflicted of the people, Save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor. 5 May they fear You while the sun shines, And as long as the moon shines, throughout all generations.

6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 May the righteous flourish in his days, as well as an abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.

8 May he also rule from sea to sea, And from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. 9 May the nomads of the desert bow before him, and his enemies lick the dust. 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring gifts; May the kings of Sheba and Seba offer tributes.

11 And may all kings bow down before him; all nations serve him. 12 For he will save the needy when he cries for help, The afflicted also, and him who has no helper. 13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and he will save the lives of the needy.

14 He will rescue their life from oppression and violence, And their blood will be precious in his sight; 15 So may he live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to him; And they are to pray for him continually; They are to bless him all day long.

16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth on top of the mountains; Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon; And may those from the city flourish like the vegetation of the earth. 17 May his name endure forever; May his name produce descendants as long as the sun shines;
And may people wish blessings on themselves by him; May all nations call him blessed.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders. 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. 20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Solomon is looking to get God's stamp of approval,
2. after watching his father with God.
3. Do you think it is presumptuous of Solomon to expect God's favour at the get go?
4. Why do we trust those who make judgements over us?
5. Who decides what is right if you take God out of the equation?
6. Solomon is saying, 'let peace and righteousness come to the hills and the mountains'.
7. Do we need guidelines in life?
8. If you are vindicated it means you are not guilty.
9. Why do people sit back and watch the needy suffer?

10. Who is responsible for oppression?
11. If we invest in the fear of the Lord, we liberate ourselves from judgement - why?
12. It is a wonderful thing to receive God's blessings - why?
13. When righteousness reigns, humanity works for the good of all.
14. Why is it expected for important people to bring gifts when they visit royalty?
15. God has an ear to the cries of the needy, He is committed to the vulnerable.
16. What and who is our helper?
17. Compassion is to positively respond to the needs of the afflicted.
18. The idea of blood being precious, is for a life to be precious.
19. When you receive your enemy's treasure - it is sweet.
20. When we say, 'may something take place', what are we actually saying?
21. For 'your name to endure', is to have generational blessings.
22. Should we spend time blessing ourselves?
23. If God's blessings are being poured out on you, it will be obvious.
24. Is God only the God of Israel, or all the nations?
25. How might we see God's glory in the earth?
26. Why say Amen twice?