

Psalm 72:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

Analysis

The prayer for the king to 'judge thy people with righteousness' and 'thy poor with judgment' requests just rule that especially protects the vulnerable. Righteous judgment means impartial justice, not favoring rich or powerful. 'Thy poor' emphasizes that even the lowly belong to God, deserving dignified treatment. This messianic psalm ultimately describes Christ's perfect reign where justice flows like a river (Amos 5:24) and the meek inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5).

Historical Context

Solomon's reign began with wisdom to judge justly (1 Kings 3:16-28), but human kings ultimately failed this standard. Only Christ perfectly embodies the righteous king who judges with perfect equity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's promise to judge with perfect righteousness provide hope for those experiencing injustice?
2. What responsibility do human authorities have to protect 'the poor' and vulnerable in their jurisdiction?
3. How can you advocate for justice for the marginalized in your community?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִשְׁפָּט: יְמִינִי יְבָנֶךָ עַמְּךָ בְּצָדֶקָה עַמְּךָ יְמִינִי
with judgment: thy poor with thy people with righteousness and thy judge
H4941 H6041 H6664 H5971 H1777

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 32:1 (Righteousness): Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org