

Psalm 72:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

Analysis

The king's dominion 'from sea to sea' and 'from the river unto the ends of the earth' describes universal rule. 'The river' likely refers to the Euphrates, Israel's northeastern boundary. This global scope exceeds any Davidic king's historical reign, pointing to the Messiah's worldwide kingdom. Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) extends His authority to all nations, with His reign ultimately encompassing the entire earth (Philippians 2:10-11).

Historical Context

Solomon's kingdom reached its greatest extent but never literally spanned sea to sea or earth's ends. This language is deliberately hyperbolic, pointing beyond any human king to the Messiah's global reign.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's universal authority shape your understanding of mission and evangelism?

2. What does it mean that Christ's kingdom has no geographical or ethnic boundaries?
3. How can you participate in extending Christ's reign 'to the ends of the earth'?

Interlinear Text

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He shall have dominion <small>H7287</small>	also from sea <small>H3220</small>	<small>H5704</small>	also from sea <small>H3220</small>
<small>H5704</small>	and from the river <small>H5104</small>	 !	 !
<small>H657</small>	<small>H776</small>	 :	 :
unto the ends of the earth			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:31 (Parallel theme): And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.

Zechariah 9:10 (Parallel theme): And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Psalms 2:8 (Parallel theme): Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psalms 80:11 (Parallel theme): She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river.

Psalms 89:25 (Parallel theme): I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.