

Transformed By Praise

Week 10 Study Questions (pp. 129-147)

Group Questions

Discussion starter: When you were a child, what did you most look forward to? Describe how you felt during the period of anticipation, and how you felt when it arrived. Do you still look forward to something, and if so, how does your anticipation now compare to your experience of it as a child?

1. On page 131, the author says “we can say that the whole Book of Psalms is *eschatological*.” Describe in your own words what this means.
2. The Book of Psalms teaches that the King is coming. For the original audience of the book’s final canonical form (post-exilic Israel), what would the returning king mean to them? What emotions might the king’s return invoke?
3. We often think of the LORD as the eternal King of all things, and this is certainly true. What complimentary truth do the Psalms also teach regarding God’s kingship? How does the author argue *YHWH malach* ought to be translated in many Psalms?
4. The LORD becomes King in three pivotal events in history. What are these events? Read the following passages and then describe how the LORD becomes King in each.
 - a. Event 1: _____ Ps 74:12-15; 93:1-4 (cf. Gen 1:1-2:3)
 - b. Event 2: _____ Ex 15:1-4, 18 (cf. Jn 12:27-33)
 - c. Event 3: _____ Rev 11:15-17 (cf. Lk 1:26-33)
5. The LORD is not only the King, but he is coming! In the contexts of Psalms 96 and 98, in what two ways is the LORD coming? How are these two ways related? How are these two ways related to God’s pattern of bringing salvation throughout redemptive history?

6. How may we understand the LORD's future coming in triumph in view of our current struggles? Identify three struggles you face in life (either persistent, ongoing, or reoccurring) and describe how you might take comfort in the LORD's coming in triumph.

7. The Hebrew verb *shafat* is frequently translated "to judge." Describe how *shafat* may be more broadly defined to encompass a fuller scriptural meaning. How may we understand the LORD'S future coming in judgment (*shafat*) in view of our current struggles? Do you fear or take comfort in the LORD's coming judgment (*shafat*)?

Digging Deeper

In light of what you've learned so far, choose either Psalm 96, 98, 132, or 118, and analyze what it teaches about God's kingship. How can you identify with the psalmist and the original audience? How does the first coming of Christ inform your understanding of the psalm? How does Christ's still-future second coming inform your interpretation? What principles for faithful living have you learned from applying these psalms to yourself?

Application

Psalm 1 is a wisdom psalm that teaches us the the righteous will flourish and the wicked will perish. In Psalm 37, David meditates on why the wicked apparently prosper while the righteous suffer. Meditate on Psalm 37, following David's thought and entering into his anguish at the seeming injustice in the world. Discuss with a non-Christian friend the topic of why the righteous appear to suffering, why the wicked seem to prosper, and how/when the Lord will remedy this unjust situation.