

## Issues involved in interpreting the relationship between Genesis 17 and Psalm 72.17

**INTERPRETATIVE PRINCIPLE:** when do common words/phrase suggest common perspective and when do they suggest opposing perspective?

### THE CONNECTION

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Genesis 17.6b: and I will make nations of you, and **kings shall come from you** (and 17.16)

Genesis 35.11: God said to [Jacob], "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and **kings shall spring from you**."

Psalm 72.17b: **May all nations be blessed in him [= the king]**

### TIME OF COMPOSITION

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Genesis: Babylonian Exile (6<sup>th</sup> century BCE)

Psalm 72: monarchical, except vv. 18-20

*Thus, the authors of the psalm didn't know Genesis*

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YHWH AND HUMAN KINGS/EMPIRES

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Genesis: completely negative: cities come from murderers (Cain) alienated from God; the best one can do is avoid cities and kings

Psalm 72: extremely positive: classic "religion of empire" posing the king as the expression of divine will on behalf of the people