
Day 107 – April 17

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

The National Convention

Readings: *1 Chronicles 23:1-26:11*

Reflections:

- David in his old age continues his effort to properly set and organize his kingdom and government to allow for a smooth transition to Solomon his son. In this section we see the detailed attention that is given to his preparation and organization.
- Remember that the Levites within Israel are the forerunners of Christ-followers within the world. Their physical work in building and serving within the temple finds parallel to our spiritual activity as Christ-followers. We are here to create a place where all people can come and meet with God. We are to live lives of continual worship. We are not to cocoon ourselves away from others but to be fully integrated and engaged with those around us.
- Moses as a man of humility and faith and apparent exception to the Law, has his sons and descendents included in the Levitical line and community. Interesting, eh? The irreligious leader who sets up God’s religion is included in the Priesthood. It shows how God is more about relationship than following the letter of the law.
- Equality is affirmed within the Priesthood when they say that the “families of the oldest brother were treated the same as those of the youngest.”
- Specific ministries are outlined here: prophecy and playing instruments. This makes more sense when you realize that much of the prophetic messages were set to music and song. What looks like poetry in how the books of the prophets were written most likely indicates that they were to be sung in the Temple. In this way it would have been easier for people who had no books to read to learn, remember and even memorize these words from God.
- We see in the titles of the Psalms that Asaph is a key leader of worship within Israel at that time.
- A second statement around equality of community for the Levites is found when we read, “Young and old alike, teacher as well as student, cast lots for their duties.” So

there were no favorites. Everyone had to fully participate and do all the various duties within that community.

- These workers are described as “trained” and “capable.” Although God works in our weakness, this does not mean that we should completely disregard the value of training or building solid skill sets.