
Day 119 – April 29

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Psalms of Joy and Praise

Readings: *Psalm 8, 9, 16, 19, 21, 24*

Reflections:

- Psalm 8: This psalm has one interesting part to it. Man is referred to as being lower than the heavenly beings but being crowned with glory and honor. This image suggests that although we were created below angels we actually are destined to rule over them. This in fact would be more fully explained in Ephesians as we are raised up in Christ. It is interesting to me that it is suggested here and that David had this sense.
- Psalm 9: A psalm praising God for his character and power. Key verse for the day: “for you, O Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”
- Psalm 16: A psalm that praises God for the incredible security we have in him when we are intimately dependent on him. “Apart from you I have no good thing...you have made my lot secure...the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places...he is always at my right hand...I will not be shaken.” The psalm then ends with a passage that the New Testament writers clearly felt referred to the coming Messiah or King. “You will not abandon me to the grave (Sheol) nor will you let your Holy One see decay.” Here we will see the nature of prophecy. God's revelation has multiple layers of meaning and application. This text meant something for David, it meant something for the coming of Christ and it has meaning for us as Christ-followers and our own hope of eternal life. When God speaks, his words are so rich with meaning and understanding that we will see many different layers of truth in the same message.
- Psalm 19: This psalm divides into three ways that you can know or experience God. First, you can know God or experience him through creation. As you look at the beauty and wonder of creation it has a way of helping you discover and connect with God. Second, you can see God revealed in Scripture and in the timeless principles laid out in Scripture. Here it specifically refers to the Law but it also applies in principle to all of revealed Scripture. In Scripture we have even a clearer picture of who God really is. Lastly and ultimately, we know God through personal experience as enter into Spirit led prayer and inner transformation. Again what David writes is in seed form. In the New Testament it will become very clear with the coming of God's Spirit for all people. But in this text it

still ends on the right point: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in your sight. David knows that being close and intimate with God is not about simply bonding with nature or studying Scripture, it is ultimately about his heart being changed and becoming God-like in his heart of hearts as God's grace and forgiveness changes him.

- Psalm 21: A psalm of praise by David about how God has blessed him as King. Key verse: "You granted him the desire of his heart." God looks to bless us by satisfying our deepest desires. He created those desires and loves to see them richly fulfilled. David had to wait though for God's perfect timing for those to be fulfilled. When God did grant him his desires he did so with the richest of blessings. A great reminder that it is always worth it to wait for God's best. Conclusion of David: "For the king trusts in the Lord; through unfailing love of the Most High he will not be shaken."
- Psalm 24: In this psalm of praise, David speaks of both the singer drawing near to God and God drawing near God's people. It is a psalm about God and his people being together in worship and celebration. The key for the singer to draw near is both holiness of lifestyle "clean hands" and purity of heart "a pure heart." Once again we see that David clearly understood that it was not just obeying the Laws that was important or simply making sacrifices, but it ultimately came down to a changed heart that is fully devoted to God. Although he knew this and sought it, only in Jesus and through the coming of the Spirit is this life change opened up to all people.