
Day 120 – April 30

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Psalms of Joy and Praise

Readings: Psalm 29, 33, 65, 66, 67, 68

Reflections:

- Psalm 29: A psalm on the power of God. Wow! It is vital to remember the awesome power and greatness of the God who is our savior and the savior of the weak and powerlessness. Remember his divine power is perfected in our weakness. The psalm celebrating his power should give us confidence in his ability to work through our weak and broken lives. He is that great and that powerful.
- Psalm 33: This psalm again focuses on the power and greatness of God. It introduces again the idea of God creating the world by speaking out his word. This word is Jesus as we will see in John 1. What an amazing amount of power that all you have to do is say the Word and it happens.
- Psalm 65: A psalm of God's blessing, grace and power. Our major themes are repeated.
- Psalm 66: This psalm refers to the refining work of God through “fire” and “water.” Fire is the more painful, purging work of God to remove from our heart our sin. Water is the more gentle and restorative work of God to remove sin from our lives. The image is of cleansing. These will be repeated in the New Testament as well. The fire of the Holy Spirit changing our hearts (Acts 2) and the water of baptism again in the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:11).
- Psalm 67: Prayer for blessing.
- Psalm 68: Here we see God's heart spelled out again very clearly. “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows...God sets the lonely in families and leads forth the prisoners with singing.” These images are powerful and help us understand our role in being the family of God. Later this psalm declares, “Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.” What a beautiful image of how much God cares for us, like a mother or a father watching over us and loving us that much. It ends with a declaration again of God's power. The good news isn't that God just loves us but that he has the power to do something about his love for us. He can revolutionize our life if we allow him. He can save us and raise us up to a place of such blessing and security that our life is filled with joy and peace.