

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

David becomes King

Readings: 2 Samuel 5:6-11, 17-25, 2 Chronicles 11:4-9, 2 Chronicles 13:1-14; 14:8-17; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; 2 Samuel 22:1-51; Psalm 18

Reflections:

- We see in this story the continued unfolding of David's rise to power as he takes possession of Jerusalem, City of Peace, that will now receive a second name, City of David. This city is actually a relatively small city by modern comparisons but in that day it was still a fortress that would serve as home for future kings and the temple. David's home is built but he has a heart to bring the ark and tabernacle to Jerusalem.
- David's heart for God is revealed as they bring the ark and he with all the Israelites worship with all their might. Here we see again another contrast between David and Saul. David again is shown to be a man after God's heart.
- The story of Uzzah dieing shows the power and holiness of God when someone is careless. Behind this act was a heart of disrespect and treating God lightly. Still, this causes David to be angry that God's wrath broke out against Uzzah. It also makes David afraid to bring the ark to him. This small incident again shows the great contrast between life before Jesus and life after Jesus. Remember this is a time period that shows everything that doesn't work and why a new way is needed. This story illustrates that unless the human heart is changed, we remain in fearful judgment. As Ephesians 2 declares, "we were objects of wrath." God's grace is lavish and his holiness is perfect. In Jesus we see both revealed, in his death we see God's wrath poured out and in his resurrection we see his mercy triumph over judgment.
- The summary statements of David's rise to power reveal God's overall blessing though on his leadership. "David became more and more powerful, because the Lord Almighty was with him." "So David's fame spread throughout every land, and the Lord made all the nations fear him."
- The psalm of David is a wonderful expression of his experience and relationship with God. Key statement: "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but the crooked you show

yourself shrewd. You save the humble but your eyes are on the haughty (proud) to bring them low.” In Christ we are made faithful, pure, and blameless even though we are in and of ourselves broken and crooked. Faith in Christ is the expression of a humble heart which opens the way for God to pour out his grace on us.