
Day 98 – April 8

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

David becomes King

Readings: *2 Samuel 6:12a; 1 Chronicles 15:1-29; 16:1-36; 2 Samuel 6:12b-19; Psalm 105; 96*

Reflections:

- God’s presence brings blessings. As the ark symbolizes God’s presence with Israel, the home of Obed-Edom is blessed for having the ark present. This is a good reminder for Christ-followers. We are now the temple where God resides through his presence living in us through his Spirit. His blessing we experience now is not first and foremost a physical blessing but the spiritual blessings as outlined in Ephesians 1.
- David constructs buildings for himself but only puts up a tent for the presence of God. This shows God’s humility as well as sets the stage for the construction of the Temple. God is demonstrating a holy law (the Torah) or a holy man (the kings) cannot change people from the inside out. God will also show that having a Temple (holy building to meet with God) can not change the human heart. Consistently we look for physical expressions of religion to somehow create a bridge between us and God and to be the means by which we manage our own change. But none of this ultimately works and God through Israel shows us this with absolute clarity. God must change our hearts through intimate relationship that completely sets aside all religion.
- David organizes everything for the proper return of the ark. He re-establishes the priesthood. He organizes the worshippers. He chose men who were skillful. David leads the way and leads by example. The worship is full of joy and passion. At this season of Israel’s life expressing love to God through song and dance is a primary way to express your heart. In the future as Israel’s songs become empty rituals, God will no longer accept this form of worship but will plead with the people to show their love by caring for the poor and for showing mercy and justice to those in need. In other words God will say, “Don’t say you love me and then treat my children terribly. Show your love for me by caring for those I love.” This then makes sense of why when Jesus comes, the role of musical worship is significantly diminished (it is still there and still important) and the importance of caring for those in need becomes more central to living lives of worship to God.

- Michal despises David's heart of worship. Her heart reflects her father's heart. Also, you can't help but wonder if losing her first husband in such a sad way and then being childless caused her to become bitter at David. This shows the broken condition of humanity. Even when all of Israel is celebrating we still see someone with a heart that is angry and full of judgment.
- David gives out bread and raisin cakes as a part of the party. This "breaking of bread" is central to their feasting and will be central to the regular parties that would be part of the Jesus movement.
- Asaph appears in the text and we know from the Psalms will be one of Israel's main song writers with David. This song tells the narrative of Israel and their journey with God. We see how important it is to remember your journey with God by putting stakes of truth in the ground, mental markers that remind us of God's faithfulness and purposes. It is important that we remind ourselves and our children of the narrative of our journey with God. Key statement: "He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth." And "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Both are true and represent the full nature of God. "righteousness and truth" and "love and mercy." In Jesus both are revealed in all their fullness.