
Day 12 – May 3

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Psalms of Joy and Praise

Readings: *Psalm 119*

Reflections:

- Psalm 119: This is the longest psalm and it uses the Hebrew alphabet to set out its verses. It is focused on the law of God and how we are made right with God as we seek God by learning, mediating on and obeying his law. This psalm gives us a picture of someone completely sold out to God and truly desiring to do what God wants from the heart. He declares all the right things: “I seek you with all my heart.” “I have chosen the way of truth.” “The earth is filled with your love.” “Your word, O Lord, is eternal,.. your faithfulness continues through all generations.” “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” “Streams of tears flow from my eyes...” “I call with all my heart...” “Your compassion is great, O Lord...” Over and over we see someone desperate for God, someone desperate to do what is right, someone who just wants what God wants. And yet it ends, “I have strayed like a lost sheep.” The difficulty with the law is no amount of trying harder or crying longer will ultimately change a person's heart, even when they know all the right things and truly want to do the right things before God. God must change our hearts from the inside out. God must write his laws on our hearts, it is his laws of love, and then with our new heart and new mind we will fulfill the law of God because his love is flowing through us.