
Day 12 – May 1

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Psalms of Joy and Praise

Readings: *Psalm 75, 93, 94, 97, 98, 99, 100*

Reflections:

- Psalm 75: A psalm that praises God for his justice. We do justice because God is a just God.
- Psalm 93: A psalm of praise for God's power and holiness.
- Psalm 94: A psalm of praise for God's justice as he defends the widow, alien, and fatherless. Here we see how important the weak and needy are to God. It also includes God's all knowing nature that he sees all we do and knows all we think. In this way God's relational and very personal attributes are clearly expressed. "Does he who formed the eye not see? Does he who formed the ear not hear?" God's saving nature is spelled out in beautiful terms: "When I said, 'My foot is slipping,' your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul." What a great testimony and hope we have in God.
- Psalm 97: Psalm of praise to God that rejoices in his power, righteousness and glory.
- Psalm 98: Sing to the Lord a new song is a wonderful reminder that God loves our ongoing creative expression of our love for him. He is a true romantic who loves a new song from those who love him. The psalm goes on to express how all of creation is in active worship and praise to God.
- Psalm 99: A psalm that affirms God's holiness, faithfulness in the past to Israel's leaders and his heart as a forgiving God. It is good to remember God's faithfulness in the past as away to remain full of faith in the present as you go through tough times.
- Psalm 100: God's character as a shepherd is expressed here again as it is in Psalm 23. In this brief song people sang about his goodness, love, and faithfulness. Again, God's heart for intimately knowing and caring for his people is expressed here as it is in so many psalms.

