
Day 128 – May 8

Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

Psalms Expressing a Variety of Sentiments

Readings: *Psalm 111, 130, 131, 141, 146*

Reflections:

- Psalm 111: A psalm of praise that reminds the singer of the greatness of God, his covenant love and faithfulness, and power to meet all of her or his needs. Key verse: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” In other words, the starting point for a right perspective on life is acknowledging, honoring and trusting the Lord. Again, note how the goal is personal trust and relationship.
- Psalm 130: Another psalm revealing a heart completely dependent on God willing to wait for God to act on his or her behalf. Note the vision of God's forgiveness. No record of sins. In the death of Jesus, the final sacrifice, we will see how sin is completely swept away, this time permanently! Praise God for his unfailing love and full redemption.
- Psalm 131: A brief but incredibly beautiful psalm of David poetically portraying the heart of humility. Here God is portrayed as a loving mother holding a little baby and David finds that security in her arms. God as Father and Mother is meant to give us great security in his limitless love and desire for intimacy with us.
- Psalm 141: A prayer of protection from one's enemies. Notice that David welcomes the rebuke or “strike” of a righteous person. He desires to be corrected. In this way he models to us again a heart of humility even as he is praying for protection from his enemies. It concludes with the key verse: “My eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord.”
- Psalm 146: This song reminds the singers not to trust in people or in princes. Imagine us singing a song at church about not trusting in the pastors of the church? Subversive! Why do we trust in God alone? He is the only one who has power to save. And who is he passionate about caring for? The oppressed. The hungry. Prisoners. The blind. The alien. The fatherless. The widow. All those who are bowed down. Suffering and brokenness has a way of fostering true humility. In their great need, God sees them and desires to have compassion on them. He is looking for a people who share this same heart of compassion for those in need.

