

## Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)

### *Psalms of the Messiah*

Readings: *Psalm 2, 22, 27*

#### **Reflections:**

- Psalm 2: It is clear from this psalm why those who saw this as a Messianic foreshadowing assumed that he would be a military ruler for Israel. One of the challenges of all prophecy is that it often is layered with meaning. What is spoken is for the present but then layered in are words or images for the future. We will see this over and over again in how God speaks through the prophets. In this psalm, it is really speaking to the present situation and king of Israel. Yet we see references that go beyond the immediate and foreshadow a coming king. Now, all that is said of the coming king is true. He is a king that is ultimately Lord and all human and spiritual powers will ultimately bow to him. The only major thing that is missed is that he first comes as a suffering servant to all people as Isaiah prophecies. Key verse: “He said to me, “you are my Son, today I have become your Father.” Again an incredible image of intimacy, both in that time and it was perfectly modeled in Christ.
- Psalm 22: It is easy to understand how the first Christians saw this psalm as clearly Messianic. A number of key passages in this psalm find direct fulfillment in Christ (pierced hands and feet, divided garments). Here we see a huge emphasis on suffering and complete dependence on God. We also see in the end that this ruler will bring mercy and justice: “The poor will eat and be satisfied....” There is also a vision for all the nations of the world: “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, all the families of the nations will bow down before him....” It concludes with echoing again this king’s ultimate Lordship. Like other prophecy there is both an immediate context and future context. This approach to God speaking requires the reader or singer to have eyes to see and ears to hear, to be able to move beyond the obvious and have a heart of faith that can see God working at a deeper, less obvious level.
- Psalm 27: Although this psalm is a beautiful psalm, the obvious connection to the Messiah is more remote. It displays complete trust in God and what it means to trust him when facing your worst enemies and fears. The connection to the resurrection (“I am confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living...”) is pretty remote. Yet it is still included in this section focused on Messianic psalms.

