

SUMMER in the PSALMS



Daily Readings Week 3

MONDAY 07.19.21 Psalm 81

Psalm 81 consists of two parts. Part 1 (vs. 1-5) is a summons to the celebration of a festival, possibly the Feast of Tabernacles (Num. 29). Part 2 (vs. 6-16) is the voice of God speaking to Israel. In Part 2, God recounts his faithfulness to Israel and contains God's plea to "Listen to me" (v. 13). As you read this psalm, ask yourself these questions: "what am I doing to make sure I hear God's voice?" and "what is God saying to me?"

TUESDAY 07.20.21 Psalm 88

Psalm 88 is a prayer of lament and one that is unusual as it does not contain expressions of trust or praise. The psalmist's life is "full of troubles" (v. 3) and feels close to death (v. 4). Can you relate to desperation of the Psalmist? How does this psalm help us understand the importance of expressing our feelings to God?

WEDNESDAY 07.21.21 Psalm 95

Psalm 95 is a call to worship and warning from God. The call to worship (vs.1-7) speaks of God as king and shepherd. The warning is against the hardening of one's heart (v. 8) like the Israelites did in the wilderness. We can soften our hearts through worship and prayer. Take time to kneel before the Lord" (v. 6) and worship your Maker.

THURSDAY 07.22.21 Psalm 99

Psalm 99 is a praise Psalm which extols the holiness of God, our King. This psalm highlights the worship of God at the Temple. God sits enthroned "upon the cherubim" (v.1) This is a reference to the ark of the covenant located in Temple. God is also in "Zion" (v. 2) which is another name for the Temple Mountain. While we do not believe that God is confined to a Temple, there are some places, like the Temple, that are sacred spaces where we feel God is present. Do you have a sacred space? How does entering that space help you experience the presence of God?

FRIDAY 07.23.21 Psalm 101

Psalm 101 is a declaration of the King to commit to righteous conduct. David also commits to surround himself with those who are blameless (v. 6) and to rid his courts of those who are arrogant and deceitful (vs. 5 & 7). This Psalm stresses the importance of seeking high character in ourselves and others. How does this Psalm speak to us as it relates to our own conduct and to the conduct of those close to us?

SATURDAY 07.24.21 Psalm 115

This psalm questions the man-made idols. These idols "do nothing" and those who worship them are wasting their time. Only the Lord is God who rules the heavens. Today, we may not have man-made idols everywhere, but we still have things that want our attention and try to pull us away from God. How can we keep our focus on God instead of seeking things that will leave us spiritually empty?