**Week of Dec 8, 2019**

**1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 19-27**

**Key Verse:** “8 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”

(1 Chronicles 16:8)

**8 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 9 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. 10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 12 Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,**

**19 When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, 20 they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. 21 He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: 22 “Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.” 23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. 24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 27 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s Scripture passage recounts Israel’s celebration upon transferring the ark of the covenant from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem. The background scripture passage is psalm of thanksgiving much of which is repeater Psalms 96; 105:1-15; and 106:1, 47-48. David’s action conveyed great joy and appreciation for the safe transfer of the ark. Verses 1-3 record how the occasion was marked with sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offering before God. Additionally, every man and woman in Israel was given a fit of a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisings. To stir up an atmosphere of continual praise and worship, David appointed Levites to play instruments and lead the people into continual praise and worship to God. David added to the celebration by composing his own song of praise.

David’s song starts with exhortation to praise God. David did not want people to praise God based on his experiences, but he encourages the people to remember and reflect on their own experiences of what God had done for them through the years. David proclaimed that the people should not keep the knowledge of God’s deeds, wonderful miracles, and judgement to themselves. Instead, David’s song encouraged people to freely and gladly tell others about the miracles that God had performed. The account of God’s faithfulness to the Israelites in remembrance of Israel’s escape from Egypt encouraged the listeners to continue in faithful perseverance.

During David’s time, many people put their faith and trust in different pagan gods. David emphasized that the God of Israel was the only god who deserves honor and praise. God is holy, and there is no comparable person, place, or thing that is holy by its own nature. The ark was a symbolic representation of God, and though it was no God, it deserved respectful treatment. David learned this lesson the hard way, after his failed first attempt to restore the ark to Jerusalem. David learned that obedience to God’s way of doing things is essential and that the basis of praise is declaring God’s power, mercy, majesty and love.

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