

## WEEK TWENTY ONE INTRODUCTION

God's story in and through His people Israel transitions to a new king during this week's reading. King David leads God's people to unity and establishes Jerusalem as "the City of David." Jerusalem becomes central to the life and worship of the people for there the ark of the covenant rests. The ark represents the covenant presence of the Lord in the midst of His people. Wherever God promises to dwell with Israel necessarily centers the life of Israel. Solomon takes up the throne amid the self-exaltation of his brother Adonijah. Solomon assumes the throne and, to fully establish his reign, deals with the enemies of his father. No rivals remain for the new king.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.*

– Psalm 115:1

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Psalms 111-113 and 116-117 carry the designation *hallel* Psalms. Each either begins or ends (for some both) with "Praise the LORD!" Some translations say "Hallelujah." *Hallel* means "to praise." Review these Psalms. What prompts the Psalmist to praise the Lord? Try to name at least one praise-inducing truth from each Psalm. Do the same things prompt you to praise God? Why or why not?

What is Adonijah's sin in 1 Kings 1:5? Read Proverbs 15:25, 33 and 16:18. What result does God promise for such an attitude and behavior? Where does pride pop up in your own life?

Psalm 37:4 NASB20 says, *Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.* (You should commit this verse to memory) Have you ever considered God as your *delight*? Or have you treated Him as the means to get what you believe to be your delight? How can you cultivate delighting in the Lord? He is the object and source of our delight not the means to get something else.

Psalm 119:11 NASB20 proclaims, *I have treasured Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.* How can you treasure God's word in your heart? The following verses help us. In v. 13, the Psalmist *tells* God's word. Perhaps he teaches others. Studies show that we retain only 5% of what we hear, 10% of what we read, 20% of what we see, and 30% of what we observe demonstrated. However, we hold on to 50% of what we discuss with others, 75% of what we practice, and 90% of what we teach to others! So, to treasure God's word read it, memorize it, discuss it with others, put it into practice, and seek to teach someone else what God says in His word. Who needs to know what you *already* understand of God and His word? Who is "behind" you that needs you to teach and guide them?

Psalm 119:18, *Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law.*, is a great request to pray back to God before you read His word. Why should we pray before reading the Bible? How do you ask for God's help in understanding Scripture?

Psalm 119:97 instructs, *How I love Your Law! It is my meditation all the day.* Another way to treasure God's word in our hearts is to *meditate* on it. You can do this through memorization and through giving yourself reminders during the day. Set some reminders on your phone that help you remember a particular verse. Create a text group where you help remind each other of a verse for the day or week.

Write a verse out on an index card and keep it in your pocket. Pull it out and read it when you have a minute or two during the day. Ask God to help you see the world of your everyday life through the lens of His word.

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments is everlasting.” -**Psalm 119:160**  
**NASB20**

**Do you believe that God defines truth? God reveals truth through His self-disclosure in Scripture. Will you evaluate the truth claims of the world with the *standard* of God’s word?**