

Tehillim/Psalms 15.

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Psalms 15:1 "A psalm of David. O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? who may dwell on Your holy hill?"

History

- Israel is at Sinai and receives the instructions on how to build the Tabernacle.
- Entering the Promised Land, the Tabernacle and the ark are settled in Shiloh. (Book of Joshua 18:1-10)
- Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:12) wicked priests.
 - they bring the ark of the covenant to the war with the Philistines.
 - the ark is captured.
- God afflicts the Philistine cities on account of the Ark of the covenant.
- the Philistines return the ark to Israel (1 Samuel 6)
- the Ark is found at Beth Shemesh and took the Ark to Kirjath Jearim, there it remained for 20 years.
- when David brought the ark to the city of David he built a tent for the Ark.

Questions

1. Is God looking for "exact science" with regard to following the Torah?
 - a. the Ark wasn't returned to Shiloh
 - b. Samuel sacrificed in Mizpah and not at Shiloh
 - c. David makes a tent, not the Tabernacle.
2. Why do you think God didn't call to have the ark returned to Shiloh?

3. What were the priests doing when they went each year at Yom Kippur to make atonement?
- 20 years no ark?

(2)

- the people thought that as long as they made the right sacrifices, kept the festivals, etc, they could live their lives the way they wanted to, and use the Ark of the covenant for their own purposes

Questions

1. Have you ever done something righteous to offset a sin in your life?
2. Do we take too much for granted what Jesus had done for us... I sinned, ask for forgiveness in Jesus' name and that is that?
3. David's question who can dwell in God's tent? or on His holy hill?
 - why would a person dwell in God's tent?
(to draw closer to Him)
 - why do we call upon Jesus' name? for the purpose of drawing near? only for forgiveness?
 - Does one draw near to gain favor?

David's Response

Psalms 15:2 "He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart."

(3)

Psalms 119:1-8 the way of Integrity

- To walk in the Law of the Lord. ← what does this mean?
- To observe His testimonies.
- To seek Him with all the Heart.
- To do no unrighteousness.
- To have no reason to be ashamed.
- To pray with an upright heart.
- To desire to learn His judgments. ← what does this mean?
- the resolve to keep God's Statutes.

Psalms 15:3 "He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend."

Romans 1:18-31 Paul spoke extensively on the sinful nature and lawlessness of mankind.

Romans 1:32 "and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

- these are people who know the commands of God but believe their way is better than God's ways.
- Paul says the Righteous despise those who practice wickedness.

(4)

Psalms 15:5 "He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent."

- In Deuteronomy 23:19 it says the children of Israel are not to charge each other interest.

Question

1. Why does David parallel the righteous with not charging interest?

- giving to the poor one does not expect anything back.
- interest to the poor only exacerbate the plight of the poor.
- the Lord promises a blessing on the gracious lender, beyond what one could earn from charging interest.
- Jesus says the same thing in Matthew 5:42.
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