

Psalm 111:6–10

How the LORD Presents Himself for Praise

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 • Read Psalm 111:6–10

Questions from the Scripture text: What has the Lord declared to whom (v6a)? How did He declare it? What else characterizes His works (v7a)? What is true of His precepts (v7b)? What do they do for how long (v8a)? What two characteristics of these appointments ensure this eternal longevity (v8b)? What has the Lord sent to whom (v9a)? What has He commanded (v9b)? For how long? What two things does this show about His Name (v9c)? What is the beginning of what in v10a? What do all who work have (v10b)? What endures forever (v10c)?

How is God glorified in His work? Psalm 111:6–10 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God's glorious power and steady faithfulness are glorified both in what He does for His people, and how He puts His praise in their hearts and on their lips.**

Glorious power, v6. When we were considering vv1–5, we noted that the Psalm begins with the command to praise YHWH (v1a) and the commitment to praise YHWH (v1b). Now it is going to end with the statement that His praise stands forever (v10c). In this second half of the Psalm, there is a strong emphasis upon how His dealings with His people is the way by which He displays His glorious character.

We saw the truth of v6 in a marvelous way in the Exodus. Providence had gathered the wealth of the world in the Egyptian superpower, but then the Lord brought Israel out with all of the treasures of Egypt. He is the real Superpower! And this will occur in a final and full way, when His saints inherit not just the broken and corrupted possessions of the rest of the world, but a totally remade world, with all of its new-creation richness (cf. Ps 24:1; Mt 5:5; 1Cor 3:21–23).

Steady faithfulness, v7–8. v6 described the power of God's works. v7–8 focus upon the faithfulness of God's works. The works of His hands are truth and judgments (v7a, more literally translated). God's work is an expression of Himself, like one's words are an expression of himself. What He does is perfectly consistent with His character, perfectly consistent with truth. And it is not haphazard but deliberate—carefully and justly determined. "Precepts" is built upon a root that means "appoint." Again, that which He puts into place is perfectly reliable. This is referring not only to what He has commanded us to do, but especially to what He Himself does. The enduring effectiveness of all of His works (v8a) is a consequence of the truth and righteousness in which He does it (v8b).

Awesomeness, v9–10. Again (cf. v5b), God's covenanted (v9b) redemption (v9a) of His people is the way that He makes Himself known (v9c). It is how He "tells His Name" in space and time. And that Name is "holy and awesome." The last adjective in v9c is the same root as the first noun in v10a. Recognizing YHWH's glory is the first part of wisdom, because if we don't understand whatever we see as from YHWH, and through YHWH, and to YHWH, then we haven't begun to see it at all.

A good understanding worships Him (v10a) and works for Him (v10b). While our version supplies "His commandments," in the original, the word "works" stands alone in v10b. Wisdom both recognizes in worship and responds in work. The worship without the work is empty and failing to interact with the Lord as a Reality. The work without the worship fails to understand the reason for any reality at all.

Finally, with the way the Spirit brings us into v10c, He is saying more than just that God will be praised forever. He is saying that God is saving and sanctifying a people who will worship Him and work for Him forever. YHWH's praise endures forever, and it is especially in His redeeming His people that He shows forth His praise! So, let us tremble at His awesomeness, responding to Him with worship and with the work of our lives.

Where do you see moments of God's great power? His steady faithfulness? At what times and ways do you respond with worship? What has been your experience of awe at those times? How are you responding with work?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have declared Your power in giving to us the inheritance of the nations. Your works are true and just, and all that you have appointed is reliable. You do everything in truth and uprightness. Most of all, in redeeming us according to Your covenant, You display Yourself holy and awesome. Grant that by Your Spirit, we would be awed at You, responding with the worship and work that show forth Your praise, which we seek to offer through Christ, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP111B "The Mighty Power of His Works" or TPH111A "Praise to the Lord! I Will Extol Him"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 111 verses. 6-10 these are God's words. He has declared to his people, the power of His Works. In giving them the heritage of the Nations. The Works of his hands are Verity and Justice. All his precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever and are done in truth and uprightness.

He has sent Redemption to his people. He has commanded his Covenant forever. And awesome is his name, the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding, have all those who do. His Commandments. His praise endures. Forever. So far. The reading of gods inspired an inerrant word.

This Psalm that begins with the command praise Yahweh. And here in the second half. He holds before us his glorious power. His study faithfulness. And his awesomeness. Or as the old word goes his awfulness. Or terribleness. First though. Glorious power. He declares to his people. The power of His Works.

Now there are those who as we heard even in the catechism lesson. From second Thessalonians, chapter 1. Will experience. Uh, Eternal destruction when the Lord comes in fiery Fury. They will experience Eternal destruction from the presence and the glory, the power of the Lord forever. And yet, God, Willing to make known his wrath endorse patiently.

Vessels prepared for Destruction. So that the riches of his glory. Might be made known might be displayed upon vessels prepared for Mercy. And so it is, especially And showing Mercy to Sinners in Redeeming them. In giving them that, which belongs, not ultimately to the Nations. But remember, Heaven and Earth and all that are in them, belong to God.

And now he gives us Uh, not only these things but first himself. He does not spare his own son, but gives him. Up for us, all and gives himself to us in his son. Not just for us, but to us and then together with him, Gives us all things.

And so God's saving. Us and bringing us to be his heirs to have him as our inheritance, our great inheritance and the whole Cosmos and you Heavens in it, you Earth as our lesser inheritance is. Um, Uh, preferred if we can use that language. Reverently way to show his glory.

He shows the riches of his glory in that way. And even as we come week by week to hear the scripture preached, he declares to us his power. Uh, and that he is pleased to display this power, especially Uh, and what he does for us. And yet, God gives to us to praise him, not only For this glorious power but also, for his steady faithfulness, we can reach back into the first half of the psalm Grab verse 5 from last week, you have the steady faithfulness, he has given food to those who fear Him.

So we see his glory in the great power in which he redeems us and gives us. Forever with him and having him in fellowship with him and a new heavens and a new Earth. But we also see his glory every day, as he gives us. Every good thing that we continually receive every breath.

We draw every time a neuron fires properly. Every morsel of food that we have provided, And those come to us, not only in the steadiness in which he's faithful and merciful in his General Providence. But because again, verse 5, second part, he is mindful of his Covenant. For believers.

Our food comes to us in Covenant and love the same love that gave us Christ and adopted us and it dwelt Us by his Spirit gives us our breakfast, lunch supper and any snacks that we might have Uh, but Uh, study faithfulness then is the theme of verses seven through nine.

Where he continues to emphasize this Covenant, this plan that he made to bind himself to us this promise. That he made to bring us into Covenant with him. The promises that he makes as part of the Covenant. Will he commits himself to do in binding himself to us and us to him?

He has commanded his Covenant forever says, verse 9. So, the works of his hands are Uh and it says here Verity and Justice, but it's really truth. And and judgment. Or declarations all his precepts are sure. And so there are three different uh, Word or truth or Declaration words in verse 7, where the truthfulness and faithfulness and reliability.

Of our God to everything that he says. Are absolutely certain. And stable. And strong and permanent. They are sure verse seven, they stand fast forever and ever verse eight. They are done in truth or faithfulness. Uh, again verse 8 and uprightness. And that word. Means straightness. Perfect straightness. In all of these, he has sent his Redemption to his people, commanding his Covenant forever.

So the stability of our God, the truthfulness, the faithfulness of our God is another thing that he sets before us, another attribute of his that he sets before us in this Psalm. Us to praise him to praise him, for his glorious power, to praise him for a steady faithfulness.

Uh, glorious power and redeeming and to study faithfulness and Redeeming. To praise him for his awesomeness, for awfulness or terribleness where we realize that he is different. Then all the creatures and greater than all of the creatures put together. And so you have holy and awesome is his name at the end of verse 9, but from the same word, You have the word translated fear in verse 10.

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom. You don't know anything about anything. Until you know that he is greater than everything. That he made it all. That he is the Creator and everything else is creature. That he is. Yahweh. I am that I am and so holy and fearful or awful or terrible.

Uh, that which awes us, or puts us in, awe is his name. He said, I am that. I am so not only are all things from him. Uh, but all things are through him. He upholds all things, nothing else, can just be everything else, depends on him in order to be But he depends on nothing.

He is. And there and then all things of course are to him. To him is the glory forever. And it's knowing God to be this God and everything else to be his creature, his creation. That is the very beginning of wisdom. Whatever other observations, we might make, whatever other conclusions, we might draw, however, accurate they might be in so far as they go.

If we do not know this about him and about everything else as his creature, If we are not awed in our hearts before him, then we have not even begun to be wise. And if we are not then living in response to him, Uh, you'll notice his Commandments is Um, present from the original, it's just a good understanding.

Have all those who work literally Is how that part of verse 10 reads in the original. Uh, and that is showing us what the aea of God is the, awe of God is not only a feeling in the heart. Uh, if it's only a feeling in the heart, it's a figment of our imagination.

But a right response to God, a right reference to God is one that actually is responding to him from the heart. And so it's not this internal contained ball of feelings and emotions. It's an actual interaction. With the god whom we know to be so awesome and So Glorious.

And so we live In response to him. And so the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, a good understanding. Have all those who work. There are those who have an accurate understanding. Yeah, they can tell you correct or precise, maybe theology. Uh, but they do not have a good understanding because good is a moral judgment.

Yes, Satan and the demons believe, but they don't have a good understanding. They're not responding rightly to God. Uh, and so We are to be awed at him in a life-changing shaping determining way. And then, of course, his praise endures forever. Not only will, we be praising him forever.

But we will see. This glorious power, that he expresses in, giving us himself forever, we will see the steadiness of his faithfulness to us forever. We will experience Him, who is the Creator, the alone, living, and true, God. And who gives purpose and pleasure to our very existence forever.

And so we will see his praise and respond with praise. But that which is forever doesn't wait. Uh, until the end of this world to begin. Uh, let By the grace of the spirit. Applying this part of his word to us. Enjoy the power that he is expressing and giving us good things.

Enjoy the steadiness of his faithfulness, especially over against our very unsteady and frequent. Unfaithfulness Uh, and live as those who are before his face, who have no other gods. Before him. Hey man. Let's pray. Our gracious God in our heavenly father, we do pray. That we would see your Almighty Power by the help of your spirit, especially, And how even such Sinners as we are.

Who are your enemies? You have saved by your outstretched arm and your Almighty hand. You pray that you would. Make us mindful aware, observant of how continually you are. Faithful to us. We pray that you would fill our hearts with awe at who you are. That we might relate to you.

And live in fellowship with you. And that we might work. Do all of our working, all of our walking and response. Give us that wisdom, that good understanding that you talk about in this passage. Be glorified in answering all of our prayers. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.