

Psalm 111:1-10

Introduction: Found in book 5 of the psalms (107-145), which focuses on blessings for the nations. These psalms were primarily written/compiled after the Exile. It is an acrostic psalm after the initial Hallelujah!

Superscription: none

We are commanded to genuinely express public grateful to God—111:1

- 1) The initial command—111:1a ¹ *Gratefully praise Yah!* [הַלְלוּ יְהוָה] (Hallelujah!)
 - a) See the similarity in Psalm 111-113.
 - b) cf. the concept is restated in 111:10
- 2) Genuine, public gratitude—111:1b
 - a) Genuine—[א] *I will give thanks [yadah] to Yahweh with my whole heart,*
 - b) Public—[ב] *in the company of the upright and in the congregation.*

God has provided numerous reasons for us to be grateful—111:2-

- 1) His works—111:2-9a
 - a) Works of Greatness—111:2-4a
 - i) Great—[ג] ² *The works of Yahweh are great,*
 - ii) Sought after—[ד] *sought by all who take pleasure in them.*
 - (1) Not because it is lost, but to frequent diligently the place where something is known to be found. (Motyer)
 - iii) Splendorous—[ה] ³ *His work is splendid and majestic,*
 - iv) Enduring integrity—[ו] *and His righteousness endures (remains unchanged) forever.*
 - v) Memorable—[ז] ⁴ *A memorial He has made for His wonderful works;*
 - (1) To ponder His name is to recall, appreciate, and understand His works. (Motyer)
 - b) Works of Goodness—111:4b-5 (demonstrated during the Exodus)
 - i) Gracious—[ח] *Yahweh is gracious and compassionate.*
 - ii) Good—[ט] ⁵ *He has given food to those who fear Him;*
 - iii) Loyal to His Word—[י] *He remembers His covenant forever.*
 - c) Works of Power—111:6-7a
 - i) Powerful—[כ] ⁶ *He has made known to His people the power of His works*
 - ii) Sovereign—[ל] *by giving them the inheritance of the nations.*
 - (1) In relation to the Exodus and entrance to the Land.
 - iii) Certain—[מ] ⁷ *The works of His hands are certainty and justice;*
 - (1) His works reveal His reliability and His sound decision-making. (Motyer)
 - d) Works of Revelation—111:7b-8
 - i) Trustworthy—[נ] *all His precepts are trustworthy.*
 - ii) Sustained—[ס] ⁸ *They are established forever and ever,*

- iii) Truthful—[v] *performed in truth and uprightness.*
- e) Works of Redemption—11:9a
 - i) Deliverance to freedom—[e] ⁹ *He has sent redemption to His people;*
 - ii) Loyalty to His Word—[z] *He has commanded His covenant forever.*
 - iii) He redeems and makes covenanted promises because He is that sort of God. (Motyer)
- 2) His character—111:9b-10:a
 - a) Genuine awesomeness
 - i) [p] *Holy and awe-inspiring is His name.*
 - ii) [r] ¹⁰ *The beginning of wisdom is awe of Yahweh;*
 - (1) Wisdom is not rooted in speculation but in God's self-revelation.
 - (2) Living in awe of God means taking Him seriously in all aspects of one's life. It involves avoiding evil, having a tender conscience, being eager to know what pleases God, and guarding against temptation.
 - (3) Living in awe of God is both an attitude and a deliberate choice to take God seriously. (Ray Pritchard)
 - (a) What made the saints of old stand strong in the face of persecution, suffering, and torture? They feared God more than they feared man. What makes single mothers keep bringing their children to church week after week? They take God seriously. What makes a businessman refuse a promotion that would take him away from his family and his church? He takes God seriously. What gives teenagers the courage to say No? They take God seriously. What makes a person give up a lucrative career to serve God in Nigeria? They take God seriously. What makes a young couple decide to become foster parents? They take God seriously. What is it that makes a fellow get up early to read the Bible and pray? Nothing more than this: he takes God seriously. Why do some Christians keep praying year after year for others to be saved? Because they take God seriously. (*Green Pastures, Quiet Waters*, 289)
 - b) Goodness
 - i) [v] *all who practice them* (i.e. His precepts in v. 7-8) *have good reasoning.*
 - (1) Practical actions designed to bring about good results (Motyer)

We are reminded of the importance of public gratitude to God—111:10b

- 1) [r] *His grateful praise endures forever.*

Take-home truth/sample prayer: Holy Father, I pray that my life may show that godly fear and great joy spring from the same eternal fountain.