

Psalm Chapter 111 - Review

In Psalm chapter one-hundred-eleven, part 1, we learned the subject/title of this great **Psalm 111** is “***Praise for Yehovah’s Works***”. And it’s the first (of three) so called ‘Hallelujah’ Psalms because it (like Psalm 112 and 113) begins with “Praise Ye the Lord’ (i.e. Hallelujah). Further, this Psalm 111 **is also an acrostic Psalm**, which is simply a type of ‘poem’ in the Bible where the initial letters of each successive line, or stanza, spell out a word, phrase, or pattern. While some Psalms are ‘irregular’ (Ps 9,10, 25, 34) this Psalm is perfect, and complete, because it has 22 lines (in the Hebrew), each line beginning with successive letters of the Hebrew Alphabet (which the *Companion Bible* shows). So, this Psalm 111 stresses praise for Yehovah *because of* His wonderful ‘works’. And so, quite befittingly, this Psalm began with the phrase “praise ye the Lord” which, in the Hebrew is “*Hallelujah*” (one of the few Hebrew words most Christians know). And this was simply a call to celebrate all that the Lord (YHVH) has done for us. And then the Psalmist promised to praise (revere and worship) the Lord (YHVH) with his ‘*whole heart*’. And we learned this meant he was dedicated to loving, *and obeying*, our Heavenly Father (*from the heart*) as the *top* priority in his life.

And the Psalmist also promised to praise (revere and worship) our Heavenly Father in the ‘assembly of the upright’ (private meetings of the upright ones) and in the ‘congregation’ (larger meetings). And, we also learned that, back in those days (when this Psalm was written) their form of worship *depended on* blood sacrifices (and other rituals and ordinances) to find forgiveness *and* to have their prayers heard (via the Aaronic priesthood). So, their form of worship truly *did* center upon worshiping at a building (the Temple). But, for us today, *it’s not that way anymore* (John 4:23-24) because Jesus Christ has *already* come to fulfill all the blood sacrifices *once and for all times* (Mth 5:17; Col 2:14; Eph 2:15; Heb 10:10, etc.). So, while it’s nice to be able to praise (revere and worship) our Heavenly Father in a Church (if you can find one that actually teaches God’s Word and not the ‘traditions of man’), Jesus taught us our Heavenly Father truly wants us to worship *wherever we are*. Therefore, studying the Bible (for ourself) each day, striving to obey Him (from the heart) and, taking the opportunities to share God’s Word with others, are all parts of how we *truly* worship (and praise) our Heavenly Father (with our ‘whole heart’) today. As Jesus said, when we let our ‘light’ shine (through our good works) that truly does glorify (and please) our Heavenly Father.

And then we began to see the Psalmist speak of the ‘works of the Lord’, which is the *subject* of this great ‘Hallelujah’ Psalm. And he spoke of how ‘great’ (wonderful) God’s works are *to those who* take pleasure in getting to know (and serve) our Heavenly Father. And the reason for this is because, when we learn to obey our Heavenly Father (from the heart) He then begins to *bless* us. And this includes protecting us (even from wicked people), guiding us, teaching us and giving us true (godly) wisdom (and peace of mind) that is *more precious* than all the wealth in the world. And that’s why those who are not rebellious to God take *great* pleasure in His works (and Word)

and seek Him out as though they were looking for ‘hidden treasure’ (Matt 6:19-21; 12:35; 2 Cor 4:6-8).

In part 2 we began to learn *why* the Lord’s (YHVH’s) ‘works’ (actions) are *so very* wonderful (honorable and glorious). And the reason *why* is because His works are *always* based upon righteousness *and* His righteousness *endures forever*. For He does not judge with partiality (as mankind so often does) but with fairness, which means He *always* treats us according to *our own* works. Yet, He’s also *incredibly* gracious, and compassionate, to forgive us when we *sincerely* repent *and* strive to change our sinful ways. And this is a ‘far cry’ from the ‘works’ of mankind; for men (and women) *often* judge, govern, and live their lives, based upon their ‘carnal mind’ (i.e. corruption) *rather than* obeying God’s righteous laws. Yet, even in a physical way, our Heavenly Father’s ‘works’ (and actions) are *high above* all others (Ps 113:4). And we have *many* examples of this in the Bible, one of which is the powerful way He freed Israel from Egyptian bondage. The mighty plagues He smote Egypt with truly are ‘far above’ what anyone can ever do. And, in the future, He will again show His mighty works (via the two witnesses, Rev 11) to prove, to those on earth, they *cannot* rebel against Him without *dire* consequences. So, even though the rulers of the world fight (rebel) against Him (as Psalm 2 spoke about), they truly don’t stand a chance *because of* His ‘mighty works’ He continues to ‘remind us’ of!

And we also learned that, because the Lord’s (YHVH’s) works are so great, so difficult, and so wonderful – i.e. *so far above* all other’s works – they are *easily distinguished* from anyone else’s ‘works’. Said another way, the Lord’s (Yehovah, #3068) ‘works’ separate Him from all others who claim to be ‘god’ or, who rule (govern) on earth. While many politicians campaign about all the ‘wonderful things’ they have done (or will do), our Heavenly Father is actually a ‘doer’ of many great, difficult and wonderful works! And even the fact that He has given us His written word (*and* preserved it for us, even through *thousands* of years since it was first written) is another way He has made His wonderful works to be remembered. Yet, another part of His ‘wonderful works’ are two of His defining characteristics (which separate, i.e. distinguish Him from, and above, anyone else) which are that He is (unlike mankind) *always* full of compassion *and* gracious (to those who fear and revere) Him! Further, the fact that our Heavenly Father is *more* (perfectly) righteous, and *more* (totally) powerful, than *anyone* on earth (or in heaven) – yet is *incredibly* gracious and full of compassion *to those who* fear (and revere) Him - is *why* we can trust in Him. As James 1:17 points out, there is *no variableness or ‘shadow of turning’* with our Heavenly Father. His emotions do not cause Him to pervert judgment or do the wrong thing, *ever*. So, He’s the *only* one we can *always* trust in IF we remain firm in our faith (in Him, via Jesus Christ) *and continue to* sincerely strive to hear *and obey* Him. And that’s *why* trusting in our Heavenly Father is a spiritual ‘safe place’ for us (refuge, rock, defense, fortress) when we’re having troubles (Ps 9:9, 46:1, 57:1, 62:7, 91:2, 94:27, etc.). As Ps 46:1 so well says, He is *our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*.

In part 3 we learned of *another* one of our Heavenly Father's 'wonderful works' and, *specifically*, that which pertains to His grace and compassion. For, the Lord (YHVH) is always faithful to give us what we *need* (not want) IF we 'fear' Him, which does mean *fear* but also *reverent* (#3373). In other words, so long as we do 'our part' to keep our 'covenant' with Him, He'll be 'ever mindful' (always remember #5769, 2142) to keep (perform) 'His part' of the 'covenant' *with us*. Jesus taught us this too (in Matt 6:31-34) by pointing out that, so, as long as we *first* seek the kingdom of God (*and* His righteousness) then all the things we *need* will be furnished by our Heavenly Father. So, as long as we're trying to sincerely obey Him, He'll *always* provide for us. But, the 'deeper level' of this promise concerns what we *really* need (to live *eternally*), which is *the spiritual* food that can *only* come from our Heavenly Father, i.e. *the truth* (John 6:63). For Jesus is our spiritual 'bread' of life (John 6:48) and our spiritual 'living waters' that will sustain our soul (and spirit) forever (John 4:13-14; 6:35 7:37-39). So, as long as we continue to desire (hunger and thirst spiritually for) the truth (God's Word, John 17:17) then our Heavenly Father (via His Holy Spirit, John 6:63) will always help us to understand His Word (as we faithfully, and diligently, study it). And, thus, give us the knowledge, and wisdom (from His word) that *truly* satisfies the *spiritual* hunger, and thirst, of our inner man (Heb 5:12-14).

And then we learned how the Lord (YHVH) showed (manifested) His 'wonderful works, (that verses 2-5 spoke of) to Israel when He brought them into the Promise Land. And, indeed, that was one of the *best* examples that proves (manifest) how He is truly able to perform that which He promises. And, in like manner, our Heavenly Father will *again* show (manifest) the power of His 'wonderful works' to His people during the 'great tribulation' (Mth 24:21). Not only through the 'two witnesses' but also through the Holy Spirit speaking through His other faithful servants. And *the purpose* (of God manifesting the power of His 'works') will be the same then, as it has *always* been: to show people that the Lord (YHVH) *truly is* the Supreme God (our Creator) and that we should worship Him *only* (Rev 14:7)! And we also learned that the 'inheritance' of those who *remain faithful* to the *true* God (and *true* Jesus Christ) at that time (during the 'great tribulation') will be receiving *eternal* life (the first resurrection) and being be allowed to *govern with* Jesus Christ in His righteous government (Rev 20:4-6; Phil 3:21; John 27:2).

And then we learned that, the actions of our Heavenly Father are *always* done with truth and justice, which is *why* they are *trustworthy*. And likewise, so are Laws, because all that the Lord (YHVH) does (and thinks) is done in righteousness, which is why He is the only 'God of truth'. So, our Heavenly Father's 'works' *are based upon* truth and judgment, which is why Jesus said He doesn't judge like mankind does (after the flesh, i.e. with a carnal mind) but according to how our Heavenly Father judges, which is righteously (John 8:15-16). That's why Jesus told us to *judge not according to the appearance* (i.e. carnally), *but judge righteous judgment* (John 7:24). Therefore, as we *continue* to trust in (and obey) our Heavenly Father (no matter what happens to us), He'll *always* help us through whatever comes our way (1 Cor 10:13) *because* trusting in the

Lord (YHVH) is what gives us *everlasting* strength! So long as we don't forsake our Heavenly Father, He'll never forsake us

In part 4 we learned that the works of the Lord (YHVH) 'stand fast forever and ever' *because* they are *always* 'propped up' (in a moral sense) with 'truth and righteousness'. And this means that our Heavenly Father's Word is something we can (and should) *take hold of* (spiritually) *to prop us up* (morally). Said another way, *because* our Heavenly Father's works are always done in truth, and uprightness, He's someone we can truly 'lean upon' to morally 'prop' us up. For, just as a vine (or tomatoes) need to be 'staked up', in order to grow properly (and be productive), so too do we need to be morally 'staked up' (propped up by God's Word *and* Holy Spirit) so we can be productive too. We learned of several analogies Jesus gave (John 15, Mth 7:23-27) that explain this very well. And then we learned that the redemption (deliverance), and giving of the Law (making a covenant) to Israel, via Moses, was merely a 'type' of *what was to come*. For it is through the Messiah, Jesus Christ, *in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace* (Eph 1:8). And, the wonderful thing about this is that, this redemption (that Jesus Christ brings) is not given to Israel *alone*. No, it is given to 'whomsoever' believes in Jesus Christ – no matter what race (or gender) they are (Gal 3:13-14; Rom 3:23-26; 1 Cor 1:29-31; Eph 1:6-7; Col 1:12-15; Heb 9:11-15, etc.)! Yet, we also learned our Heavenly Father's 'name' (honor, authority and character) truly is 'holy' (clean, as in *totally* righteous) and reverend (worthy to be revered *and* we should be afraid to disobey Him) which is why He *deserves* our faithful (*and willing*) obedience, as well as our *profound* respect (reverence).

And then we learned that fearing (and revering) the Lord (YHVH) is the *beginning* of getting wisdom, which is what produces the 'fruit of righteousness' *within us*. Therefore, God's 'wisdom' (given to us in His written Word) is *more* precious than all the riches in this world. For it's the only thing that can *truly* make us happy, *because* using God's wisdom helps us to avoid *many* troubles. Further, when we have God's wisdom, we'll also have *peace in mind* because we learn to *trust in* our Heavenly Father, who will not allow our 'foot' to be taken in any traps that the wicked people put in front of us (spiritually or physically). So, there's *many* benefits from obtaining God's wisdom; we just have to be diligent (and earnest) enough to 'dig it out' of God's Word as we *study it each day*. And lastly, we also learned that: because our Heavenly Father *endures forever*, so will His praise! ... which (recall) is actually how this Psalm began (Praise Ye the Lord, i.e. Hallelujah). So, from the beginning - to the end - of this Psalm, we have learned of some of (the many) '*wonderful works*' that our Heavenly Father was, is, and *will forever* be praised for. For, just as His 'works' (and ways) are always righteous and holy (clean) (Ps 145:17), so is He! And that is why He'll *forever* be praised and also, why we can *forever* trust in Him...

AMEN.