



Study Guide: Psalms – Chapter 111

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Psalms Chapter 111 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Psalms 111 stands as a powerful hymn of praise within the Psalter, celebrating the works and character of God. It contributes to the book's flow by offering a structured acrostic poem that emphasizes God's faithfulness, righteousness, and enduring covenant. As part of the group of Psalms focused on thanksgiving and praise, Psalm 111 invites readers to reflect on the reasons for wholehearted worship. Watch for the detailed descriptions of God's deeds and attributes, which serve both as theological affirmations and as encouragement for trust in God's providence.

Context

Psalms 111 is situated among the Hallel Psalms, traditionally used in Jewish worship during festivals and times of communal praise. It follows Psalm 110, which is messianic and royal in tone, and precedes Psalm 112, which focuses on the blessings of the righteous. The immediate literary context is one of praise that highlights God's covenant faithfulness and mighty acts. Historically, the psalm reflects the covenant relationship between God and Israel, emphasizing the reliability of God's promises. The speaker is the faithful worshiper or the community of Israel, affirming God's works and encouraging others to join in praise.

Outline

The psalm can be divided into three main movements. The opening section (verses 1–3) is a call to praise God wholeheartedly for His wonderful works. The middle section (verses 4–7) describes the nature of God's works, emphasizing their greatness, righteousness, and enduring impact. The final section (verses 8–10) focuses on God's covenant faithfulness and the reverence due to Him, concluding with a call to praise that acknowledges the eternal nature of His name and works.

Verse-by-Verse Study



Verses 1-3: These verses open with a declaration of praise, urging the worshiper to give thanks with the whole heart. The repetition of “I will praise the Lord” underscores a personal commitment to worship. The focus on “wonderful works” highlights God’s deeds that inspire awe and gratitude, and the psalmist invites others to join in recognizing God’s greatness.

Verses 4-5: Here the psalmist describes the nature of God’s works as “great” and “studied by all who delight in them.” This suggests that God’s actions are not only mighty but also worthy of careful reflection. The attribute of “gracious and full of compassion” reveals God’s character as merciful and kind, while “righteous” emphasizes moral perfection and justice.

Verses 6-7: These verses focus on the enduring nature of God’s works. God’s deeds are “faithful and just,” established forever, and performed in “truth and uprightness.” The psalmist highlights God’s provision and deliverance, noting that He provides food for those who fear Him and remembers His covenant forever, demonstrating ongoing care and commitment.

Verses 8-10: The conclusion affirms the eternal and unchanging nature of God’s commandments and covenant. God’s precepts are “trustworthy” and “established to last forever.” The fear of the Lord is presented as the beginning of wisdom, a foundational principle for life. The final verse calls for praise to God’s holy name, emphasizing the enduring reverence due to Him.

Key Themes

One central theme is the wholehearted praise of God, which flows from recognizing His mighty and wonderful works. Another theme is the faithfulness and righteousness of God’s actions, highlighting His moral perfection and covenant loyalty. The psalm also emphasizes the enduring nature of God’s works and commandments, underscoring the eternal reliability of His promises. Finally, the fear of the Lord as the foundation of wisdom connects worship with practical living and reverence.

Cross-References

Psalms 111’s emphasis on God’s works and faithfulness resonates with Psalm 112, which describes the blessings of the righteous who fear the Lord, reinforcing the connection between reverence and divine blessing. Proverbs 9:10, which states that “the fear of the



Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” clarifies the wisdom theme in verse 10. Exodus 20, the giving of the Ten Commandments, relates to the trustworthiness of God’s precepts mentioned here, highlighting the covenant foundation. Additionally, Hebrews 13:8, affirming that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, echoes the eternal nature of God’s faithfulness celebrated in this psalm.

Application

For modern disciples, Psalm 111 encourages a worship that is both heartfelt and informed by knowledge of God’s character and deeds. It challenges believers to cultivate a deep appreciation for God’s faithfulness and righteousness, which can strengthen trust amid life’s uncertainties. The psalm’s focus on the enduring nature of God’s covenant invites believers to anchor their lives in God’s unchanging promises rather than shifting circumstances. Furthermore, embracing the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom calls for a life marked by reverence, obedience, and practical wisdom in daily decisions.

Summary

Psalm 111 is a structured hymn of praise that celebrates God’s mighty works, covenant faithfulness, and moral perfection. It moves from a personal and communal call to praise, through a detailed reflection on God’s attributes and deeds, to a concluding affirmation of the eternal nature of His commandments and the foundational role of reverence in wisdom. This psalm invites worshipers to respond with wholehearted gratitude and trust, recognizing that God’s works and promises endure forever.