

Theme: As we ponder the great works of the Lord in redeeming and giving us His covenantal commands, we respond with heartfelt praise and willing obedience.

I. Intro – Great literary devices

- A. I have tried to learn and appreciate poetry
- B. Poetry is full of literary devices
- C. These can give a clue to meaning
- D. Psalm 111 has a couple of clear literary devices
- E. It is an acrostic
 - 1. 22 lines, each starting with successive Hebrew letter
 - 2. Some letters are prepositions; conjunctions - note word linked
 - a. In the company (v1); and his righteousness (v3)
 - 3. In English translations some not at beginning of line
 - a. Remembered & gracious (v4)
 - 4. Sometimes an unusual word is used to fit acrostic
 - a. Food v5 - normally 'prey' but refers to manna/quail here
 - 5. All of these are listed on the web - worthy of reflection!
- F. I will note some others as we look at this Psalm of praise

II. Theme: Praise the LORD for His Great Works

- A. This is clearly a psalm of **praise to Yahweh**
 - 1. Note the intro - Hallelu - Yah - not part of acrostic
 - 2. Inclusio of praise - thanks (v1); praise forever (v10)
 - 3. Praise in the gathered congregation (liturgical; v1)

- 4. God's people are gathered to praise Him!

B. Praise Yahweh for His great works!

- 1. This forms the heart of the psalm - vv2-9
- 2. The works are the first thing mentioned in v2
- 3. Works (or a synonym) occurs 5 times in Psalm 111
 - a. v2 - works of the Lord
 - b. v3 - full of splendor & majesty is His work
 - c. v4 - his wondrous works
 - d. v6 - power of His works
 - e. v7 - the works of His hands

III. Studying and Pondering Yahweh's Works

- A. We must study (ESV) or ponder (NIV) His works (v2)
 - 1. We are commanded to study/ponder God's works
 - 2. This leads to praise; no ponder = no praise!
 - 3. Two categories (v9) - lead to **praise!**
 - a. Redemption
 - b. Covenant - especially covenantal commands
- B. Redemption - Exodus, wilderness, conquest (vv3-6)
 - 1. Remembered - Passover - [Exodus 12:14]
 - 2. Gracious and compassionate - YHWH - [Ex. 34:6]
 - 3. Food - manna in wilderness [Exodus 16; Deut 8:3]

4. Covenant - Covenant & Decalogue (Exodus 19-24)
5. Inheritance - book of Joshua
6. This is a powerful call to remember redemption!

C. Covenantal commands (vv 7-8)

1. A shift to God's covenantal commands (vv7-8)
2. Note these are His work as much as redemption
3. They are given for our good & blessing
4. As a fish was made for water, we were made to walk in God's commands
5. He not only acted in history - He gave covenantal Word

IV. Our Response to God's Great Works

A. We give Him praise

1. This is the theme of the whole Psalm! (vv1, 10)
2. The response of praise (v9)
3. Pondering God's great works leads to praise!
4. If you don't feel like praising - ponder His work!

B. We obey His commands out of gratitude

1. Obey His precepts faithfully & uprightly (vv7-8)
2. Fear Yahweh & keep them - wisdom (v10 NIV)
3. Note fear like Jer spoke of - pure reverence
4. But note order - redemption, then keep commands

5. Obedience our response to God's redemptive work
6. If you don't feel like obeying - pondering His works!

V. Applying the Word - the Lord's Table

A. Pondering Christ Who has redeemed us

1. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed
2. His blood has stayed the Angel of Death!
3. He has delivered us from slavery to sin and fear
4. He has made us His own!
5. He gives food to sustain us on our journey
6. His Spirit never leaves us - even when we sin
7. He gives us the inheritance of the nations now
8. His Spirit is using us to draw others to Himself
9. He will be with us forever - into eternity!
10. Praise His name!

B. The Lord's Table - v5

1. Church Fathers saw verse 5 as a type of Communion
 2. At this Table He meets us, feeds us
 3. At this Table , He remembers His covenant
 4. At this Table, we praise & are strengthened to obey
- Praise the LORD for His Great Works!**

Psalm 111
July 10, 2011
Communion
Psalm 134:3

the **works** of the LORD (v2)

full of splendor and majesty is his **work** (v3)

his wondrous **works** (v4)

the power of his **works** (v6)

the **works** of his hands (v7)

(ESV)

Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

(NIV)

Great are the works of the LORD;
they are **pondered** by all who delight in them.

Psalms 111:2

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.**

Psalms 111:10 NIV

1 Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

Psalms 111:1–10