



1

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111:1-3

- **Praise the LORD!**
- I will **extol** the LORD with all my heart in the council of the **upright** and in the **assembly**.
- **Great are the works of the LORD**; they are pondered by all who **delight** in them.
- **Glorious and majestic** are his **deeds**, and his **righteousness** endures forever.

2

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111:4-6

- He has caused his **wonders** to be remembered;
- [T]he **LORD** is gracious and compassionate.
  - ✓ He provides food for those who fear him;
  - ✓ he remembers his covenant forever.
  - ✓ He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.

3

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111:7-9

- The **works of his hands** are faithful and just;
- [A]ll his **precepts** are trustworthy.
  - They are steadfast for ever and ever,
  - [D]one in faithfulness and uprightness.
- He provided **redemption** for his people;
- [H]e ordained his **covenant** forever – **holy** and **awesome** is his name.

4

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111:10

- The **fear of the LORD** is the *beginning of wisdom*;
- [All] who follow his **precepts** have **good understanding**.
- To him *belongs* **ETERNAL PRAISE**.

5

## INTRODUCTION

- Let's say you're watching **YouTube** and an annoying commercial pops up for mouthwash.
- The **ad** shows a woman leaning to pet her dog, and then the camera zooms in for a close-up of her **teeth**.
- Suddenly, we're aware that this woman has **bad breath** and **diseased gums**.

6

## INTRODUCTION

- Then, we also see in small print – but quite visible – **"actor portrayal."**
- Why do we see this message?
- Because **mouthwash companies** have a hard time finding **"real people"** who use their mouthwash and are willing to go on TV with **diseased** and **ugly gums**!

7

## INTRODUCTION

- You see this **"actor portrayal"** disclaimer in other ads, too, like promos for
  - hygiene products,
  - shoe inserts,
  - foot fungus powders, and
  - medications for a host of embarrassing health problems.
- **Real people** are not going to line up to **endorse** these products, no matter how helpful and beneficial the **items** may be.

8

## INTRODUCTION

- On the other hand, some companies have no trouble finding “**real people, not actors**” to endorse their products.
- From **Dove soap**, to **Bumble** to **Chevrolet** to **eHarmony**, “**real people**” can be found who **praise** and **endorse** commercial products or concepts.



9

## INTRODUCTION

- Why? If we’re convinced that the **person** in love with this herbal, eco-friendly shampoo is a **real, average middle-class person like us**, we’ll try it and buy it.
- We’ll put down cash for stuff because a person of our own **community** and **status** loves this **shampoo** – not some phony Hollywood actor/celebrity.



10

## INTRODUCTION

- This is called **social realism**.
- It was given birth by social media platforms on which **everyone’s** authentic ideas, opinions and feelings are revealed.
- As you know, **social media** is a web of gossip, innuendo and often a place of outrageous claims.
- We believe each other, when we believe those people are just like us and **sincerely** have something helpful to share.

11

## INTRODUCTION

- This is why most people, according to a recent survey, prefer **real people** over actors in commercials.
- It’s just more **authentic**.
- The writer of today’s psalm is a **real person**, like us.
- Not a professional singer, hired to sing praise to Yahweh.
- This guy’s the **real deal**.

12



## PSALM 111

- Psalm 111 is known as the **Sabbath Psalm** as it was read every Saturday in the **temple** and later in the **synagogues**.
- However, it was not just **spiritual text** but also something very important.
- It was a **work of art!**

13

## PSALM 111

- The **song** has 22 phrases, each beginning with a **successive letter** of the Hebrew alphabet.
- In just 175 words, the singer **summarizes** the whole history of God's deliverance of ancient Israel as his **poetic homage** to the Lord!

14

## PSALM 111

- This psalm is a **praise song** to God and to **remind** God's people of His promises, power, and faithfulness.
- We might have enormous stress during the week, we might have family problems, we might have issues with the boss, or we're sick and tired of wearing a mask.
- But when we come together to **worship**, it's all about reminding ourselves of the **majesty of our Lord**.

15

## PSALM 111

- The **Thesis Statement** of Psalm 111 is . . .
  - *I will **extol** the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.* (Psalm 111:1)
- **Assertions** ( or Why, praise the Lord?)
  - God has in Israel's history consistently performed "**shock and awe**" on their behalf.
  - In other words, the "**works of the Lord**" are great.
  - Therefore, we should recount them **frequently** to keep us encouraged and that **nothing is too hard for the Lord**.

16

## PSALM 136

- No chapter in the Bible lists the **"mighty works of the Lord,"** more than **Psalm 136.**
- They are as follows:
  - ✓ Creation of the heaven's and the earth.
  - ✓ The 10 Plagues on the Egyptians.
  - ✓ The deliverance to God's people from Pharaoh's hand and the parting of the Red Sea.
  - ✓ Struck down great kings, and killed mighty kings.
  - ✓ Gave them a land of milk and honey as an inheritance.

17

## OTHER - MIGHTY DEEDS MENTIONED IN THE OT

- Conquest of the Canaanites
  - ✓ Dried up the Jordan River.
  - ✓ Tore down the walls of Jericho.
  - ✓ Stopped the Sun & Moon.
  - ✓ Hailstorm on Israel's enemies.
- Special grace on the Judges of Israel.
- Special grace on Elijah & Elisha)
  - ✓ Elijah (7 Miracles).
  - ✓ Elisha (14 Miracles).

18

## OTHER - MIGHTY DEEDS

- David's victory over Goliath.
- Jehoshaphat's victory over the Edomites.
- Hezekiah's victory over Sennacherib's and the Assyrian army.
- Jonah in the belly of the fish (or whale).



19

## PSALM 111

- So then what are the **Key Points** of Psalm 111
  - ✓ God provides food.
  - ✓ God keeps promises.
  - ✓ God shows his power.
  - ✓ God is faithful, just, and trustworthy.
  - ✓ God sends salvation.
- In fact, anyone of these examples is more than enough to motivate us to **extol** the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

20

## PSALM 111

- Even **More Reasons** to **Praise the Lord** . . .
  - ✓ His righteousness endures **forever** (v. 3).
  - ✓ He is ever mindful of his covenant (v. 5).
  - ✓ All his precepts are trustworthy (v. 8).
  - ✓ He has commanded his covenant **forever** (v. 9).
  - ✓ His praise endures **forever** (v. 10).

21

## GOOD UNDERSTANDING

- The **revelation** of the Lord's character and his fidelity to the **covenant** call for a response of wisdom in which God's people will "**fear**" him, . . .
  - recognizing his rule over us, and
  - following his precepts.
- The **fear of the Lord** is "the beginning of wisdom."
- And the wise gain a "**good understanding.**"

23

## TESTIMONY

- So the ancient, **real-person** scribe wraps it up by say that the evidence is overwhelming.
  - "**Holy and awesome** is his name" (v. 9).
  - Then in the final stanzas, he adds, "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**" (v. 10).

22

## DAVID'S TESTIMONY

Psalm 103:2-5

*Praise the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his **benefits**,*

- ✓ *who forgives all your sins*
- ✓ *heals all your diseases,*
- ✓ *who redeems your life*
- ✓ *crowns you with love and compassion,*
- ✓ *who satisfies your desires with good things*



24



## DAVID'S TESTIMONY

Psalm 37:25, 40

- *I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the **righteous** forsaken or their children begging bread.*
- The LORD
  - ✓ helps **them** and
  - ✓ delivers them;
  - ✓ he saves them from the wicked . . . because they take **refuge** in him.



25

## MORE TESTIMONIES

Psalm 66:16-20

- **Come and listen**, all you who **fear God**; let me tell you what he has done for me.
- I **cried out** to him with my mouth; his **praise** was on my tongue.
- If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely **listened** and heard my voice in prayer.
- **Praise be to God**, who has not rejected my **prayer** or withheld his **love** from me! Psalm 66:16-20



26

## CONCLUSION

- All these people in the Bible who are praising God do so because God has shown Himself **faithful**.
- In their **praises** they are telling us as well that **God has the power** to do what he has promised.
- As it says, in Psalms 34, **Taste and see that the LORD is good**; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. (Psalm 34:8)
- Therefore, let us **buy in** to what the psalmist is saying.

27

## CONCLUSION

- Instead of fearing the future, let us **fear the Lord**, so that we may have a **"good understanding"** of the faithfulness of God.
- If we do, we too might be spending more time **praising God** instead of fretting over our temporal problems.
- Who knows, someone who sees our **faith** may actually **buy in** to our testimony and then experience the wonders of God grace for themselves.

28