

PSALM 111

This psalm and the one following are both acrostics, each verse beginning with a different letter of the alphabet. In our English translation of the Hebrew, of course, this feature cannot be seen. Also, both psalms have the same number of verses and the same length of verses. By almost common consent, the postexilic date of the psalm is accepted. The period after the return from the Babylonian captivity was one of discouragement and littleness of faith. One cannot help but feel that the psalm was written to hearten the faith of that generation by showing the nature of Yahweh's works throughout the history of his chosen people, in the works of creation, providence, and grace.

- 1 Praise YAHWEH ! I will give thanks to YAHWEH with all my heart,
in the company of the upright and in the assembly.
- 2 Great are the works of YAHWEH; *they are* studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has made His wonders to be remembered; YAHWEH is gracious and compassionate.
- 5 He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.
- 6 He has made known to His people the power of His works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

- 7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure.
- 8 They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness.
- 9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever;
holy and awesome is His name.
- 10 The fear of YAHWEH is the beginning of wisdom;
a good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*;
His praise endures forever.

PRAYER

Great and mighty Father, we praise you with all our hearts for your faithfulness. Endue us with that reverent awe which will arouse us to seek your throne of grace, confessing our sins and seeking pardon for the sake of Jesus who propitiated your wrath against us. We know that you have promised to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness when we approach you in faith. Who is a pardoning God like you? If you took note of our sins, who could stand? But we have a great high priest interceding for us, one who can sympathize with us and thus plead efficaciously for us. Let your Holy Spirit sanctify us daily, that more and more we will sin less and less, until you bring us to our heavenly home where we shall dwell with you for all eternity, never to sin again. Receive our humble gratitude and praise, for we ask in the name of our Redeemer, Messiah Jesus. Amen.