

Deuteronomy 10:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Analysis

He is thy praise—The Hebrew construction makes God Himself the substance and object of Israel's worship. Not merely the One who receives praise, Yahweh is the content—His character, deeds, and glory are what Israel boasts in. This anticipates Paul's 'He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord' (1 Corinthians 1:31, quoting Jeremiah 9:23-24). God's excellence is Israel's sole ground of confidence.

That hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen—Moses appeals to eyewitness testimony of God's mighty acts: the plagues, Red Sea crossing, Sinai theophany, wilderness provision. *Nora'ot* (terrible things) refers to awe-inspiring demonstrations of divine power. This verse links worship to remembrance—rehearsing God's redemptive history fuels praise. For Christians, Christ's cross and resurrection are the 'great and terrible things' that become our testimony and the substance of our praise (1 Peter 2:9).

Historical Context

Moses spoke to the generation born in the wilderness who witnessed the water from the rock, manna, quail, and God's judgments. Their parents saw the exodus; they saw God's faithfulness during 40 years of wandering. This living memory was to fuel perpetual worship.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What specific 'great and terrible things' has God done in your life that should fuel daily worship?
2. How does making God Himself (not His blessings) your 'praise' guard against consumer Christianity?

Interlinear Text

ה וא	תהלתך	יה וא	אלה יך	אשר	עש ה	אתך
H1931	He is thy praise	H1931	and he is thy God	H834	that hath done	H853
	H8416		H430		H6213	
את	הגדל ת	ואת	הנוראת	הא לה	אשר ר	כא ו
H853	for thee these great	H853	and terrible things	H428	H834	have seen
	H1419		H3372			H7200
עיניך:						
which thine eyes						
H5869						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:14 (Resurrection): Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Revelation 21:23 (References God): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Psalms 22:3 (Resurrection): But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Exodus 15:2 (References God): The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

2 Samuel 7:23 (References God): And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

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