

Psalm 106:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?

Analysis

This rhetorical question emphasizes the impossibility of fully declaring God's mighty works. 'Utter' (malal, מָלָל) means to speak or declare. 'Mighty acts' translates geburot (גבורות), God's mighty deeds of power. 'Shew forth all his praise' acknowledges that God's praiseworthy acts are inexhaustible—no human can fully catalog or adequately praise them all. This verse establishes human limitation in worship: we can never fully express God's worthiness. It also invites continuous, lifelong meditation on God's works, knowing we'll never exhaust their depths. This anticipates eternal worship, where redeemed saints forever discover new reasons to praise (Revelation 4-5).

Historical Context

Psalm 106 contrasts God's faithfulness with Israel's chronic rebellion, recounting Israel's wilderness failures. This verse opens by acknowledging that even recounting God's mercies in that difficult period cannot capture their full extent. For post-exilic Israel, this rhetorical question reminded them that even after generations of unfaithfulness, God's mercy remained beyond full description.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing the inexhaustibility of God's praiseworthy acts affect our worship?
2. What 'mighty acts' of God in your life deserve more meditation and thanksgiving?
3. How should the impossibility of fully praising God shape our eternal perspective?

Interlinear Text

כָּל־שָׁמָן יְשַׁמֵּחַ מִלְּלָתָךְ יְהִי כָּבֹר וְתִּתְּהִלֵּתָךְ
H4310 Who can utter H4448 H1369 H3068 H8085 H3605

תְּהִלְתָּנוֹ:

all his praise

H8416

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 1:19 (Parallel theme): And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!