

Psalm 107:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Analysis

This is the fourth and final occurrence of the refrain (see vv. 8, 15, 21). After the storm deliverance, it again summons thanksgiving. The repetition across all four scenarios (wilderness wandering, prison darkness, mortal sickness, ocean storm) emphasizes that every divine deliverance—regardless of type—merits the same response: praise for God's goodness and wonderful works. The liturgical structure (scenario → deliverance → refrain) creates rhythm for corporate worship. The psalm's design ensures that diverse experiences of salvation all culminate in unified doxology. All God's works reveal His goodness and deserve thanksgiving.

Historical Context

This refrain structure may have been used antiphonally—leader recounting deliverances, congregation responding with the refrain. This pattern continues in Christian worship: testimonies of God's works followed by corporate praise. The fourfold repetition parallels the four gospels' unified witness to Christ from different perspectives, or Revelation's fourfold 'living creatures' crying 'Holy, holy, holy' (Revelation 4:8). Diverse perspectives create rich, multifaceted praise.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture use repetition to emphasize God's worthiness of praise?
2. How can diverse deliverance experiences create unity in worship?
3. What role should structured liturgy play in expressing thanksgiving for God's works?

Interlinear Text

וְיִתְהַנֵּן	לִפְנֵי הָ	מְפָדֵת	לִיהְיוֹן	וְיִתְהַנֵּן
Oh that men would praise	the LORD	for his goodness	and for his wonderful works	
H3034	H3068	H2617		H6381
לְבָנֵי	אָדָם			
to the children	of men			
H1121	H120			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:8 (Resurrection): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 103:2 (References Lord): Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Psalms 107:15 (Resurrection): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:21 (Resurrection): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!