

Psalm 111:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Analysis

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered (זָכַר עֲשָׂה לְנַפְלָאֹתָיו)—Zeker (memorial, remembrance) suggests God intentionally designed His mighty acts to be unforgettable. The verb asah (to make/do) emphasizes divine agency—God actively ensures His niflaot (wonders, marvels) remain in covenant memory through festivals, testimony, and Scripture. This recalls Passover: 'This day shall be unto you for a memorial' (Exodus 12:14). God's works are self-authenticating revelation demanding generational transmission.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion (רָחָם וְכָחוֹם יְהָוָה)—This formulaic covenant language echoes Exodus 34:6, God's self-revelation to Moses. Channun (gracious) denotes unmerited favor, while rachum (compassionate) derives from rechem (womb), suggesting maternal tenderness. Psalm 111 is an acrostic (each line begins with successive Hebrew letters), and this theological summary anchors Israel's worship in the character revealed at Sinai. God's wonders reveal not merely His power but His covenant love.

Historical Context

Psalm 111 is a 'wisdom psalm' composed as an alphabetic acrostic, a literary device emphasizing completeness and aiding memorization. Written for corporate worship ('in the assembly' v.1), it likely served as catechetical instruction, teaching Israel's children God's covenant history. The reference to 'wonderful works' encompasses Exodus deliverance, wilderness provision, conquest, and ongoing

providence. Post-exilic Judaism used this psalm to rehearse God's faithfulness despite exile, affirming His unchanging character.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What spiritual disciplines help you 'remember' God's wonderful works rather than drift into forgetfulness?
2. How does rehearsing God's past faithfulness strengthen confidence for present trials?
3. In what ways do God's 'wonderful works' reveal not just His power but His gracious, compassionate character?

Interlinear Text

זְכָר	שָׁהַ	לְנַפְלָאוֹת	מְגַנֵּן
to be remembered	He hath made	his wonderful works	is gracious
H2143	H6213	H6381	H2587
וְנַחֲתָה	יְהֹוָה:		
and full of compassion	the LORD		
H7349	H3068		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:7 (References Lord): I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

Psalms 86:5 (Grace): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Psalms 103:8 (Grace): The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Psalms 145:8 (Grace): The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Psalms 112:4 (Grace): Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Psalms 78:38 (Parallel theme): But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalms 86:15 (Grace): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.