

Psalms 111:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Analysis

This verse celebrates God's redemptive intervention: 'He sent redemption unto his people.' 'Redemption' (Hebrew 'pedut') means deliverance, often through payment of a price or rescue from bondage. The verb 'sent' indicates God's initiative - salvation comes from Him to us, not our effort to reach Him. 'Unto his people' emphasizes covenant relationship - God redeems those who are His through covenant. The second clause establishes permanence: 'he hath commanded his covenant for ever.' 'Commanded' (Hebrew 'tsavah') means ordained, established with authority. God's covenant isn't tentative or conditional but eternally commanded. The final declaration completes the doxology: 'holy and reverend is his name.' 'Holy' (qadosh) means set apart, transcendent, morally pure. 'Reverend' (nora) means awe-inspiring, fearsome. God's name represents His revealed character, and that character demands worship and reverence. The verse ties together redemption, covenant, and the holy character of God - the basis for all true worship.

Historical Context

For Israel, 'redemption' primarily recalled the exodus from Egypt when God delivered His people from slavery. The concept of redemption included the kinsman-redeemer role (goel) who bought back family members from slavery or land from creditors (Leviticus 25, Book of Ruth). God acted as Israel's redeemer, purchasing them not with silver but with mighty acts of judgment against Egypt. The covenant 'commanded forever' refers to God's covenant with Abraham

(Genesis 15, 17), renewed with Moses at Sinai (Exodus 19-24), and confirmed with David (2 Samuel 7). Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God's covenant remained because it depended on His faithfulness, not theirs. The declaration that God's name is 'holy and reverend' reflects the third commandment against taking God's name in vain (Exodus 20:7). Throughout Israel's history, reverence for God's name grew, to the point where Jews avoided pronouncing YHWH. New Testament fulfillment sees Jesus as the ultimate redeemer who purchased His people not with perishable things but with His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19), establishing the new covenant 'forever' (Hebrews 13:20).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God 'sent' redemption, emphasizing His initiative in salvation?
2. How does God's redemption demonstrate both His justice (a price paid) and His mercy (freeing captives)?
3. What assurance comes from knowing God has 'commanded his covenant forever'?
4. How should recognizing that God's name is 'holy and reverend' affect our worship, prayer, and daily speech?
5. In what ways does Old Testament redemption foreshadow Christ's greater redemption?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| פָּדוּתוֹ | שָׁלַח | לְעַמּוֹ | צָוָה | לְעוֹלָם |
| redemption | He sent | unto his people | he hath commanded | for ever |
| H6304 | H7971 | H5971 | H6680 | H5769 |
| בְּרִיתוֹ | קָדוֹשׁ | וְנוֹכָח | שְׁמוֹ: | |
| his covenant | holy | and reverend | is his name | |
| H1285 | H6918 | H3372 | H8034 | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 99:3 (Holy): Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

Luke 1:49 (Holy): For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Luke 1:68 (Redemption): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Titus 2:14 (Redemption): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Hebrews 13:20 (Covenant): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Hebrews 9:12 (Redemption): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Deuteronomy 28:58 (Parallel theme): If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

Revelation 4:8 (Holy): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Ephesians 1:7 (Redemption): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

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