

Psalm 115:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

Analysis

The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. This verse transitions from exhortation (trust!) to assurance (He blesses!). The Hebrew zakar (זָכָר, to remember, be mindful) doesn't imply God forgot but rather that He acts on behalf of those He remembers. God 'remembered' Noah (Genesis 8:1), Hannah (1 Samuel 1:19), and His covenant (Exodus 2:24)—always with saving action.

The threefold repetition **he will bless** (yebarekh, יְבָרֶךְ) emphasizes certainty and comprehensiveness. Future tense indicates confident expectation based on God's character and past faithfulness. The blessings extend to all groups previously exhorted: general Israel, the Aaronic priests, and (v. 13) those who fear the LORD.

The structure creates a liturgical rhythm, likely antiphonal in temple worship. One group declares God's mindfulness (v. 12a), another responds with triple assurance of blessing (v. 12b-c). Corporate worship rehearses divine faithfulness, building communal faith. This anticipates the New Covenant blessing where God remembers His people through Christ's mediation and blesses them with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).

Historical Context

Post-exilic Israel needed assurance that God still remembered them. The exile had seemed like divine forgetfulness or abandonment. The returnees faced hardship,

opposition, and modest circumstances. Psalm 115's liturgical structure served to rebuild communal confidence: God remembered us in the past (Exodus deliverance), God remembers us now, therefore God will bless us in the future. This past-present-future movement characterizes covenant faith. The Aaronic benediction (Numbers 6:24-26) similarly pronounced threefold blessing, a pattern echoing through Israel's worship.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does rehearsing God's past faithfulness ('hath been mindful') strengthen confidence in His future blessing?
2. What is the relationship between God 'remembering' us and actively blessing us?
3. How does the corporate, liturgical nature of this assurance (blessing different groups within the community) inform Christian ecclesiology and worship?

Interlinear Text

יהוה	! בָּרוּ כִּי	! בָּרוּ כִּי	! בָּרוּ כִּי	אַתָּה	בַּיִת
The LORD	hath been mindful	he will bless	he will bless	H853	the house
H3068	H2142	H1288	H1288		H1004

ישראל	! בָּרוּ כִּי	אַתָּה	בַּיִת	אַבְרָהָם
of Israel	he will bless	H853	the house	of Aaron
H3478	H1288		H1004	H175

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 136:23 (Parallel theme): Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Isaiah 44:21 (References Israel): Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Galatians 3:29 (Parallel theme): And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Psalms 25:7 (References Lord): Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

Psalms 67:7 (Blessing): God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Acts 3:26 (Blessing): Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Genesis 8:1 (Parallel theme): And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

Galatians 3:14 (Blessing): That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Acts 10:4 (References Lord): And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.