

Psalm 25:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Analysis

The plea 'for thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great' appeals to God's honor as motivation for forgiveness. Acknowledging that 'it is great' demonstrates honest confession without minimizing sin. Reformed theology emphasizes that God forgives not because sin is small, but because His mercy is great. Forgiveness glorifies God's name—demonstrates His character—more than judgment would. This models authentic repentance: confessing sin's magnitude while trusting mercy's greater magnitude.

Historical Context

In biblical thought, God's 'name' represents His reputation and revealed character. Forgiving guilty sinners displays grace that magnifies God's glory more than destroying them would. Israel constantly appealed to God's name as basis for mercy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does praying 'for Your name's sake' change your approach to confession?
2. What does acknowledging sin's greatness teach about authentic repentance?

Interlinear Text

לְמַעַן שָׁמַךְ יְהִי הַ וּסְלִיחַתְּךָ לְעֹזָךְ כִּי כִּי
H4616 For thy name's sake O LORD pardon mine iniquity H3588 for it is great
H8034 H3068 H5545 H5771 H7227

לְמַעַן

H1931

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 79:9 (Sin): Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

1 John 2:12 (Sin): I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Psalms 31:3 (Parallel theme): For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

Isaiah 43:25 (Sin): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Isaiah 48:9 (Parallel theme): For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.

Psalms 109:21 (References Lord): But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.

Psalms 143:11 (References Lord): Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Romans 5:15 (Parallel theme): But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Ezekiel 36:22 (References Lord): Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

Ezekiel 20:9 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

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