

Psalm 40:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Analysis

This verse celebrates the innumerability of God's works and thoughts toward His people. The Hebrew *mah rabbu* ('how many') expresses wonder at divine abundance. God's thoughts (*machshavot*) toward us are purposeful plans, not random impulses. They cannot be 'reckoned up in order' because they exceed human capacity to catalog divine grace.

Historical Context

The theme of God's countless mercies appears throughout the Psalter, reflecting Israel's corporate memory of deliverance from Egypt, wilderness provision, and establishment in the promised land.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific works of God in your life have been too numerous to count?
2. How does meditating on God's abundant thoughts toward you affect your prayer life?

Interlinear Text

רַב וְתַּעֲשֶׂ יְתָן אֱלֹהִי יְהֹוָה אַתָּה
Many works which thou hast done O LORD my God
H7227 H6213 H859 H3068 H430

אַתָּה אַל יָנָה וּמְחַשֵּׁבָת יְבָנָה נְפָלָאת יְבָנָה
are thy wonderful and thy thoughts H413 H369
H6381 H4284

עַר בָּנָה אַל יָבָנָה
which are to us-ward they cannot be reckoned up in order H413
H6186

אַג יְהָה תְּאַדֵּב בָּהּ עַצְמָה תְּאַדֵּב בָּהּ מַסְפֵּרָה
unto thee if I would declare and speak of them they are more than can be numbered
H5046 H1696 H6105 H5608

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:11 (References Lord): For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Exodus 15:11 (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Psalms 92:5 (References Lord): O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

Psalms 71:15 (Parallel theme): My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.

Psalms 136:4 (Parallel theme): To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalms 139:6 (Parallel theme): Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Job 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Job 26:14 (Parallel theme): Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

Exodus 11:8 (Parallel theme): And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger.