

How Great is our God! (Part 1)

Psalm 111: 1-10

Tonight we have read an interesting Psalm. It is the first in a series of psalms known as *Hallels*, or songs of praise, comprised of Psalm 111 – Psalm 118. As you have already discovered in our initial reading, this psalm is deep and rich in praise and adoration for the Lord.

Consider the comments C.H. Spurgeon regarding this particular Psalm. “*All ye his saints unite in adoring Jehovah, who worketh so gloriously. Do it now, do it always: do it heartily, do it unanimously, do it eternally. Even if others refuse, take care that you have always a song for your God. Put away all doubt, question, grumbling, and rebellion, and give yourselves up to the praising of Jehovah, both with your lips and in your lives. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart. The sweet singer commences the song, for his heart is all on flame: whether others will follow him or not, he will at once begin and long continue.*” ¹

I want to examine this beautiful text as it reveals the glorious attributes of our God. I would like to preach on the thought: [How Great is our God!](#)

I. The Worship of our God (1) – [Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.](#) Here the psalmist is so overwhelmed as he considers the Lord that he breaks forth in praise unto Him. Notice:

A. The Encouragement (1a) – [Praise ye the LORD.](#) This particular Psalm, along with many others begins with a Hebrew phrase that has become universal for thanksgiving and praise, Hallelujah. The psalmist had pondered the Lord and all His abundant goodness and he breaks forth in praise declaring Hallelujah!

- As I considered the phrase, Praise ye the LORD, or Hallelujah, I was reminded of how good God has been to me. He has blessed me abundantly, far more than I could ever deserve. It is impossible to dwell upon the goodness and blessing of God and not find encouragement for our souls. In lifting up praise and adoration to our God, we actually bring personal encouragement to our lives!

B. The Experience (1b) – In the latter part of [V.1](#), the psalmist speaks of the worship experience. These few words reveal much about genuine worship.

1. Worship is Determined – [I will praise the LORD.](#) The psalmist revealed a conscious decision to praise the Lord. I personally believe that he had no other choice but to worship, however, he determined in his heart that he would worship the Lord. I am convinced that he

was so moved by his relationship with the Lord and the goodness he had received that he was determined to offer praise above all else. He simply couldn't help himself!

- Wouldn't it be great if all of God's people had the desire and determination to worship Him? Surely He has blessed us all and is worthy of our worship.

2. Worship is Devoted – I will praise the LORD with my whole heart. This was not inconsiderate or indifferent praise. The psalmist determined to worship the Lord with his whole heart, literally with all of his being. Nothing was held back. He offered the Lord all he had in heartfelt, abundant praise.

- The phrase whole heart has to do with the "*inner man, our thought, reflection, and even our memory*." Many believe that Jesus had this particular psalm in mind when He spoke of the great commandment in Mat.22:37 – Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

- Many of us gather several times a week under the pretense of worship. There are other times throughout the week that we offer some sort of praise or thanksgiving unto the Lord, but I wonder how often we really worship. How often do we come before the Lord in an attitude of praise that literally consumes all of our inner being? How often is worship our one and only priority? That is what the Lord desires and it is certainly what He deserves!

3. Worship is Displayed – The psalmist knew there was an appointed place where worship was offered and expected, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. I am certain that he had those moments of quiet reflection where he offered personal worship unto the Lord, but he was also aware of the need to offer his praise in a public display of corporate worship. There was something special about gathering with the people of God to worship the Lord together.

- We have dealt with this before, but I want to remind us of the need for corporate, public worship. There is nothing wrong with private worship; in fact, we ought to possess an attitude of worship all the time. But, there is nothing that will take the place of God's people coming together, at an appointed time, in an appointed place to worship the Lord together. That is an experience that I don't want to live without. I want to find my place among the people of God and worship corporately!

4. Worship is Diverse – As I thought of the psalmist gathering with the assembly in the congregation, I thought of the diversity of worship that provided. No doubt each of them had experienced God in great and wonderful ways, with each experience being unique and rewarding. The people came together and began to offer praise for the many ways that God has blessed them individually. Their worship was likely all different, but it was needful and necessary.

- I love gathering with God's people as they offer worship unto the Lord. Our lives and needs are all different and yet we all have something to praise the Lord for. We all have the privilege and opportunity to contribute to the worship of our God. That is what makes the services so special. God's people, as individuals are offering their worship in their unique ways, and that creates something wonderful and profound, corporate worship!

I. The Worship of our God (1)

II. The Works of our God (2-8) – In these verses the psalmist is still in an attitude of praise as he considers all the mighty works of our God. He reveals that:

A. They are Great (2) – The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. That seems such an insignificant description of the works of our God, but our language simply cannot express the wonder and greatness of all He is. Have you tried to comprehend the greatness of our God lately?

➤ The word **great** has the idea of being “*large in magnitude and extent; being of importance, distinguished.*”

➤ The psalmist also refers to the fact that those who knew the Lord **sought out** His great and mighty works. They had experienced them before and desired to have them again. The phrase **sought out** means “*to resort to; seek with care; to enquire or frequent.*” Clearly the works of God was something the people desired and sought after. We too have the same desire. I have experienced His power before and desire to experience it again! There is nothing like His presence and power in our midst.

B. They are Glorious (3) – His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. The psalmist speaks of the glory of the Lord as He performs His marvelous works. They are **honourable and glorious**. This speaks of their “*splendor and majesty.*” He is the only true and living God. He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. There are none who rival His glory or His splendor. He alone is God.

- Isn't it amazing to consider that the God of heaven would take the time to notice us? It further amazes me that He would desire a relationship with me and make provision for me as He does. Who is like unto our God? What more could we hope for or desire?

C. They are Gracious (4) – He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. The works of the Lord had been brought into remembrance by the psalmist. He had pondered the works of God and his mind was taken to the wondrous works of the past that God had done for him. God had been gracious and compassionate.

- We too can look back over our lives and remember the times when our God has shown Himself mighty and gracious in our lives. He is a God that is filled with compassion toward those who are undeserving.

- As you think of that, is this not one of the most profound and endearing attributes of our God. Where would any of us be were it not for His great mercy and grace? Where would we be had the Lord not shown compassion toward us?

- Ps.86:5 – For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Ps.86:15 – But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

D. They are Generous (5-6) – These verses reveal the generosity and providence of God toward man. This generosity is two-fold:

1. His Provision (5) – He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. Surely the Lord had cared for His covenant people. He brought Abraham out of a land of idolatry with the promise of a great nation and abundant land. Joseph was allowed to be sold into slavery according to God's sovereign plan of saving His people alive in the midst of a great famine. Hundreds of years later He brought them out and provided for them daily in the wilderness. When they entered Canaan, they found a land of great abundance. Much time has passed and yet the psalmist continues to rejoice for the provision of God.

- If anyone ought to rejoice, it ought to be us. We have never faced much of the adversity than many before us have. We may not have always had what we wanted, but I doubt any of us have ever lacked what we needed. That is a testimony to the goodness and provision of our God.

2. His Providence (6) – He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. God had brought them into a land that was inhabited by others and gave them a great inheritance. This was God's plan from the beginning. Even today Israel faces tremendous pressure from surrounding nations, but they didn't give them that land and the surrounding nations will never be able to take it away!

- We don't have claim to a physical piece of land, but we do have claim to a home prepared for all those who have trusted in Christ through salvation. The redeemed are headed toward heaven, by the providential hand of our God, and this world can do nothing to prevent it. We are secure because God has declared it to be so!

We have yet a couple more verses that deal with the Works of our God, but we will continue there next week. There is simply too much in this psalm to cover in one study.

As we close tonight, I wonder if there is an attitude of praise within our hearts. Are we truly thankful for all that God has done for us? Are we fully aware of the great and wondrous works that He has and continues to perform in our lives? Surely we all have much to praise Him for!

¹Spurgeon, C. H. (1993). *Psalms*. Crossway Classic Commentaries. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

