



Genuine Wisdom

By Shannon Ford on May 8, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 111

Scholars have long linked Psalm 111 and 112. Both are in the format of an acrostic poem, and the content is similar. The two psalms are written to praise God and impart wisdom on the worshiping community. Many believe that these psalms were written by either Ezra, Nehemiah, or Zechariah during the postexilic time. Verses 1-3 of Psalm 111 set the tone for worshiping God. The setting is public, as verse 1 indicates. The reasons for praising God are many: His great works, His glorious and majestic deeds, and His enduring righteousness (vv. 2-3).

The psalmist gets more specific in verses 4-9. The Lord is a God of grace and compassion. He provides them with food and remembers His covenant. He gives His people victory over their enemies. He is powerful, faithful, and trustworthy and has redeemed His people. All such actions reflect the love of a God who is both holy and awesome (v. 9). Awesome is a word that we overuse for anything that is impressive. Unfortunately, popular usage of this word has diminished the intended definition of "awesome." The meaning here is "awe-inspiring." When someone begins to understand our awesome God and comprehend His holiness, the result is a deep, fearful reverence that brings forth praise.

The psalmist concludes Psalm 111 with the secret for obtaining genuine wisdom. Verse 10 gives us the three main steps for obtaining wisdom. First, we must "fear God." This means we are to have reverence and respect for the things of God. Second, we must "obey His Word." The Word of God is given to us not just to read and study, but to obey. Third, we must "praise God." Praise takes the selfishness out of our lives and puts our focus on God. Genuine wisdom begins by fearing God. You increase your wisdom as you obey His Word and praise Him.

PRAYER: Lord, we live in a world with a great deal of knowledge but not a great deal of wisdom. As we walk with You daily, I pray that we would do so with genuine wisdom that comes from fearing, obeying, and praising You. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 119:1-40

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