

Specifically we praise God for his grace & forgiveness (v3-4)

- When we are overwhelmed by our sin (v3)
- Even then you forgive us
- Forgiveness not simply in a judicial sense but a covering over our iniquity

To ask for forgiveness is to become vulnerable

- It resists our hardness of heart
- Overcomes our complacency and self-seeking tendencies

Forgiveness breaks down the walls of separation that we erect between us and God

- Forgiveness allows for relationship with God and is realized in our prayers
- As a result happy are those who come near to God (v4)

2. Praise for God's Powerful Works (v5-8)

A God-Centred Outlook

- Action verbs used – establishes, stills, makes, visits, enriches, provides, waters, crowns

God is praised for his entire creation works – before the specifics of the drought (v9-13)

“To have God at one point means to have him in all his fullness.”

Weiser

- This God is praised for the mountains (v6), the oceans (v7)
- He is praised for his signs (v8) – the sunrise, the sunset
- God is daily present in his creation

This point speaks to the loss of wonder which leads to profanation of life

- The inability to be amazed and to sing songs of praise
- The universe is amazing – let us give God praise for his works

3. Praise God for His Works of Provision (v9-13)

Here we understand God to be a cosmic farmer

- There is a focus on water (3x in v9-10)
- Water is the specific answer of prayer to the drought

Yahweh's generosity and care of creation is demonstrated (v9-13)

- The God of the harvest
- The personification of nature – pastures, hills, meadows, valleys all giving praise


Everything depends on a fertile earth which is a gift from God – All of our science depends on the gifts of God to us

Which leads full circle to the reality and engagement of thanksgiving


Application

1. Creation is not to be seen simply as a commodity – to be used

Rather creation speaks of God's care and provision

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- A background image of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid.
2. We are not autonomous creatures – rather we live dependent upon the earth

We are called to recognize our connection with the earth and care for it, respect it

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- A background image of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid.
3. Thanksgiving is a theological work which becomes an antidote to our spirit of self-satisfaction

Thanksgiving looks to God as subject; this helps us to set our priorities in the right direction – God first, not ourselves