
THE WONDER OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUS WORD



PSALM 119:129–144

MAIN POINT:

The Word reveals the wonder of God and His righteousness.

PSALM 119:129–136

¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.
¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.
¹³³ Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
¹³⁴ Redeem me from man's oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

“WONDER” IN THE BIBLE

Wonderful are your testimonies.

Marvelous are your testimonies.

Miraculous are your testimonies.

Extraordinary or beyond understanding are your testimonies.

Most literal translation: “*Wonders* are your testimonies.”

“WONDER” IN THE BIBLE

Judges 13 – The Birth of Samson

¹⁷ And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” ¹⁸ And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is *wonderful*?” ¹⁹ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, *to the one who works wonders*, and Manoah and his wife were watching.

“WONDER” IN THE BIBLE

God is beyond us, infinite in holiness, majestic in glory. To say he is *wonderful* is to say he is **infinitely mysterious – transcendent – he is beyond understanding.**

“WONDER” IN THE BIBLE

Job 42– Job’s Response to God

- ² “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
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“WONDER” IN THE BIBLE

Psalm 119:129 is poetic irony. God and his works of *wonder* are mysterious and beyond our understand, but at the same time made known to us through the testimonies.

The infinite One reveals Himself in the Bible; the One who is beyond understanding helps us understand Him.

DESIRING THE WONDER OF GOD’S WORD (V.131)

I open my mouth and pant,
because I long for your commandments.

GOD’S WORD REVEALS THE WONDER OF GOD

God’s turning to us (v.132) and being gracious to us and making his face shine upon us (v.135) happens when we encounter the glory of God in the pages of the Bible.

“To read in the economy of grace is to read with faces exposed to the face of God shining on us through the text.” Kevin Vanhoozer

PSALM 119:137–144

¹³⁷ Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are your rules.
¹³⁸ You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.
¹³⁹ My zeal consumes me,
because my foes forget your words.
¹⁴⁰ Your promise is well tried,
and your servant loves it.
¹⁴¹ I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget your precepts.
¹⁴² Your righteousness is righteous forever,
and your law is true.
¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have found me out,
but your commandments are my delight.
¹⁴⁴ Your testimonies are righteous forever;
give me understanding that I may live.

GOD’S WORD REVEALS THE WONDERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (V.137–144)

BONHOEFFER (ON BIBLE READING):

"We are uprooted from our own existence and are taken back to the holy history of God on earth. There God has dealt with us, and there God still deals with us today, with our needs and our sins, by means of the divine wrath and grace. What is important is not that God is a spectator and participant in our life today, but that we are attentive listeners and participants in God's action... God is with us today only as long as we are there. A complete reversal occurs here. It is not that God's help and presence must still be proved in our life; rather God's presence and help have been demonstrated for us in the life of Jesus Christ. It is in fact more important for us to know what God did to Israel, in God's son Jesus Christ, than to discover what God intends for us today... We must become acquainted with the Scriptures first and foremost for the sake of our salvation."

JESUS: THE WONDER OF GOD'S SAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS

YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE WONDERFUL, because they reveal Jesus.
Jesus is the **wonder** of God (Isaiah 9:6)

YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE RIGHTEOUS, because they reveal Jesus.
Jesus is the **righteousness** of God (1 Corinthians 1:30)
