

1 Chronicles 16:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

The refrain 'O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever' appears throughout Scripture (Psalms 106, 107, 118, 136). Thanksgiving (yadah - praise/confess) responds to God's character ('he is good') and His covenant love (chesed - steadfast love/mercy). The phrase 'endureth forever' (l'olam chasdo) emphasizes the permanence of God's covenant commitment. This isn't based on Israel's worthiness but God's nature. The repetition of this refrain in temple worship (1 Chronicles 16:41, 2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:3, 6, 20:21) made it central to Israel's liturgical life, pointing to the eternal nature of God's love demonstrated ultimately in Christ.

Historical Context

This antiphonal response (one group singing 'for he is good,' another responding 'for his mercy endures forever') characterized temple worship. Its frequent repetition in Chronicles emphasizes the Chronicler's focus on proper worship as covenant community's heartbeat.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does meditating on God's enduring mercy affect your response to personal failures and His discipline?
2. What specific evidences of God's 'goodness' and 'mercy' in your life warrant fresh thanksgiving today?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------|---------------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| לְעוֹלָם | לִיהְיוֹת | וּבְכִי | הַזֶּה | תְּהִלָּה | תְּהִלָּה | תְּהִלָּה |
| O give thanks | unto the LORD | H3588 | for he is good | H3588 | endureth for ever | |
| H3034 | H3068 | | H2896 | | H5769 | |

ITO

for his mercy

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:1 (Grace): Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Chronicles 7:3 (Grace): And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Ezra 3:11 (Grace): And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Psalms 107:1 (Grace): O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Chronicles 5:13 (Grace): It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD;

and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

Jeremiah 33:11 (Grace): The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

Psalms 118:1 (Grace): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

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