

Psalm 135:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.

Analysis

A theological declaration anchors the historical recital: 'Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.' The Hebrew 'shem' (name) signifies God's revealed character, reputation, and identity. 'Zikr' (memorial, remembrance) parallels this, emphasizing how God is known and commemorated. Both 'endure forever' (le'olam) and span 'all generations' (le'dor va'dor), asserting divine permanence against the mortality of human kingdoms. While Sihon and Og are forgotten except in Israel's worship, Yahweh's name endures eternally. This echoes Exodus 3:15 where God declares His name 'for ever' and His memorial 'unto all generations.' The verse transitions from what God has done (verses 8-12) to who God eternally is, grounding historical acts in unchanging divine character. Jesus claimed the same permanence: 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away' (Matthew 24:35).

Historical Context

The language closely parallels Exodus 3:15, where God revealed His name to Moses at the burning bush. In ancient Near Eastern culture, a name preserved one's memory after death - to have no name was to be forgotten entirely. God's eternal name contrasts with the mortality of human rulers and their dynasties.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's eternal name provide stability in a changing world?
2. What does it mean that God's memorial endures throughout all generations?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹהִים	שְׁמָךְ	לֹא	עִזּוֹל	הִ	הִ	זִכְרָה	יִדְרָה:
O LORD	Thy name	endureth for ever		O LORD	and thy memorial	generations	
H3068	H8034	H5769		H3068	H2143		H1755
יִדְרָה:							
generations							
H1755							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:12 (References Lord): But thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

Exodus 3:15 (References Lord): And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Psalms 8:9 (References Lord): O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Psalms 72:17 (Parallel theme): His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

