

# Psalm 136:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:

## Analysis

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**To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for...—** Smote Egypt's firstborn - exodus liberation through judgment. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (לעוֹלָם חָסְדָו, ki le-olam chasdo). This refrain, repeated 26 times, transforms history into worship. Each event becomes evidence of God's eternal chesed (steadfast covenant love). The psalm teaches that recounting salvation history should evoke gratitude, showing God's character remains unchanging.

## Historical Context

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Psalm 136, the Great Hallel, recounts salvation from creation through providence. Sung at Passover and festivals with antiphonal structure (cantor and congregation), it trained Israel to see history through the lens of God's enduring mercy. Every generation learned their identity through this recitation.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does repeatedly saying "his mercy endures forever" after each historical event transform your perspective?
2. What events in your life can you recount with the refrain "for his mercy endures forever"?
3. How does this psalm challenge viewing history as random versus providentially unfolding divine faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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|                          |              |                           |             |         |    |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------|----|--------------------------|
| לְמַכְה                  | מִ           | מִצְרַיִם                 | בְּבָכֹרִים | לְעֹזֶל | מִ | כִּי                     |
| <b>To him that smote</b> | <b>Egypt</b> | <b>in their firstborn</b> |             |         |    | <b>endureth for ever</b> |
| H5221                    | H4714        | H1060                     |             | H3588   |    | H5769                    |
|                          |              |                           |             |         |    |                          |
| מִסְדָּר                 |              |                           |             |         |    |                          |
| <b>for his mercy</b>     |              |                           |             |         |    |                          |
| H2617                    |              |                           |             |         |    |                          |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:51** (References Egypt): And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

**Exodus 12:29** (References Egypt): And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

**Psalms 135:8** (References Egypt): Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast.

**Psalms 105:36** (Parallel theme): He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.

**Exodus 12:12** (References Egypt): For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

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