

# Psalm 136:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

## Analysis

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**With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endure...**— Strong hand, outstretched arm - divine power in salvation. **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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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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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לְעֹזֶל מִנְחָת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
hand With a strong arm and with a stretched out endureth for ever

H3027 H2389 H2220 H5186 H3588 H5769

לְמַתְּנוֹת  
for his mercy

H2617

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 32:21** (Parallel theme): And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

**Deuteronomy 4:34** (Parallel theme): Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

**Exodus 6:6** (Parallel theme): Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

