

Psalm 136:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Analysis

To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever...— Divided Red Sea - impossible obstacle overcome. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (לְעוֹלָם כֵּן, 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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

לְנַדֵּב	ר	לְנַדֵּב	יְמִינָה	סְמִינָה	לְנַדֵּב	יְמִינָה	כִּי	לְעִזָּלָה	מְעִזָּלָה	לְעִזָּלָה
To him which divided	sea	the Red	into parts					endureth for ever		
H1504	H3220	H5488	H1506					H3588		
									H5769	

לְנַדֵּב
for his mercy

H2617

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:13 (Parallel theme): He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

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