

Psalms 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 fo...— Divided Red Sea - impossible obstacle overcome. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (וְכִי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ, 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

לְגֵן רַ	יָם	ס וַיַּף	לְגֵזֶר יָם	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם
To him which divided	sea	the Red	into parts	H3588	endureth for ever
H1504	H3220	H5488	H1506		H5769
חֲסִדּוֹ:					
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.