

Psalms 136:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Analysis

And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth...— Israel passed through - safe passage through danger. **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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְהָעֵבֶר יֵרָאֵה	וַיַּעַשׂ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּתוֹכָוּ	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם
to pass through	And made Israel	the midst	H3588	endureth for ever
H5674	H3478	H8432		H5769

חֲסִדּוֹ:
of it for his mercy
H2617

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 14:22 (References Israel): And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Psalms 106:9 (Parallel theme): He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.