

Psalms 136:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endure...—Pharaoh's army overthrown - complete victory. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (כִּי 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְנָעַר	פַּרְעֹה	וְחֵיל וְ	בַיָּם	סוּף	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם
But overthrew	Pharaoh	and his host	sea	in the Red	H3588	endureth for ever
H5287	H6547	H2428	H3220	H5488		H5769
חֲסִדּוֹ:						
for his mercy						
H2617						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:53 (Parallel theme): And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

Psalms 135:9 (Parallel theme): Who sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his servants.