

Psalm 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 endureth for ever...— Pharaoh's army overthrown - complete victory. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (כי לעוֹלָם מְשֻׁנָּה, 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

Psalm 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

לְעוֹלָם אָמֵן וְעַל־פְּרַעַת הַנּוֹתֵר וְעַל־יְהוָה
But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red endureth for ever

H5287 H6547 H2428 H3220 H5488 H3588 H5769

מִסְדָּר
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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org