

Psalm 136:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Analysis

Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:...—Sihon king Amorites - first conquest. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (כִּי לְעוֹלָם חָסְדָו, 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

מֶלֶךְ אַמּוֹרִים לְעֹזֶל מִצְחָה סִיחָן
king of the Amorites endureth for ever for his mercy

Sihon H5511 king H4428 of the Amorites H567 endureth for ever H3588 for his mercy H2617

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 29:7 (Kingdom): And when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them:

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