

Psalms 136:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Analysis

And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:....—Og king Bashan - defeating giants. **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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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

וְلֹא	מֵלֶךְ	בְּשָׁן	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם	מִסְדָּר
And Og	the king	of Bashan	H3588	endureth for ever	for his mercy
H5747	H4428	H1316		H5769	H2617

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:33 (Kingdom): And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan went out against them, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei.

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