

Psalms 136:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth
for ever:

Analysis

And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:...—
Gave land for heritage - fulfilling promises. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (כִּי לֵעֹלָם 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַיִּתֵּן	אֶרֶץ	לְנַחֲלָה	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם	חַסְדּוֹ:
And gave	their land	for an heritage	H3588	endureth for ever	for his mercy
H5414	H776	H5159		H5769	H2617

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