

Psalm 136:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever...— Heritage to Israel - covenant possession. **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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

מְקוֹדֶם: לְעוֹלָם מִלְּשָׁרְאָא לְבָנָה עָבָד וְלִישְׁרָאָה כִּי
Even an heritage unto Israel his servant H3588 endureth for ever for his mercy
H5159 H3478 H5650 H5769 H2617

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