

Psalm 136:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Analysis

Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:...—
Remembered in low estate - God's attention to afflicted. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (לעוֹלָם מְצֻדָּה קִ, 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

מִסְדָּר לְעוֹלָם בְּשִׁפְלָנוּ נָשׁ בְּנֵי כָּר לְכָר הַנּוּ H3588 H0 H2142 H8216 endureth for ever for his mercy Who remembered us in our low estate

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Luke 1:48 (Parallel theme): For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Psalms 116:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

Psalms 142:6 (Parallel theme): Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

Psalms 113:7 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

Deuteronomy 32:36 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

Psalms 102:17 (Parallel theme): He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

Genesis 8:1 (Parallel theme): And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

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