

Psalms 136:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever....—Gives food to all flesh - universal providence. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (כִּי לְעוֹלָם יִתְּנוּ, 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

נִתְּ	לֶחֶם	לְכָל	בֶּשֶׂר	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם	חַסְדּוֹ:
Who giveth	food	H3605	to all flesh	H3588	endureth for ever	for his mercy
H5414	H3899		H1320		H5769	H2617

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:27 (Parallel theme): These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

Psalms 145:15 (Parallel theme): The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Psalms 147:9 (Parallel theme): He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.