

Psalms 136:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Analysis

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever....— God of heaven - sovereign over all. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (בְּלֹא תִּנְאַכֵּל, 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

תְּהִלָּה	לְאֵלֹהִים	הָשָׁמֶן	לְעוֹלָם	תְּהִלָּה
O give thanks	unto the God	of heaven	endureth for ever	for his mercy
H3034	H410	H8064	H3588	H5769
				H2617

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:4 (References God): And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

Jonah 1:9 (References God): And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Psalms 123:1 (Parallel theme): Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Psalms 115:3 (References God): But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.