

Psalms 136:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy
endureth for ever.

Analysis

"To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever." The phrase l'oseh nifla'ot gedolot levado (to the one doing great wonders alone) emphasizes divine uniqueness and exclusivity. Niflaot (wonders/marvels) describes extraordinary acts beyond natural causation. Gedolot (great) indicates magnitude. Levado (alone/by Himself) stresses that YHWH alone performs such wonders—no human help, no divine collaborators, no natural explanation. This recalls Exodus miracles (plagues, Red Sea), wilderness provision (manna, water from rock), conquest of Canaan (Jordan crossing, Jericho's fall), and ongoing divine interventions. The refrain again links wonder-working power with enduring mercy—God's miracles serve His covenant faithfulness, not arbitrary displays of power.

Historical Context

Israel's history consisted of divine wonders: creation, flood, calling Abraham, Isaac's birth to aged parents, exodus plagues, Red Sea parting, Sinai theophany, wilderness provision, Jordan crossing, sun standing still (Joshua 10), Gideon's fleece and victory, David's triumphs, Elijah's miracles, return from exile. These wonders authenticated YHWH as true God against false deities who performed no such acts (1 Kings 18:20-40). The New Testament records Christ's miracles as signs authenticating His messiahship (John 20:30-31) and apostolic miracles confirming gospel proclamation (Acts 2:22, Hebrews 2:3-4). Church history continues to testify to God's wonderful works in conversion, providence, and occasional miraculous interventions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What "great wonders" has God performed in salvation history that strengthen your faith?
2. How does recognizing that God "alone" does wonders guard against crediting human ingenuity or natural causes for divine work?
3. In what ways have you personally experienced God's wonder-working in seemingly impossible situations?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------|----|-----------|-------------------|
| לְעַלְיוֹן | כִּי | גָדֹל | וְ | נִפְלְאֹת | לְעַלְיוֹן |
| To him who alone doeth | | great | | wonders | endureth for ever |
| H6213 | | H1419 | | H6381 | H5769 |

| |
|---------------|
| חַסְדֵּיךָ |
| for his mercy |
| H2617 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 72:18 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

Psalms 86:10 (Parallel theme): For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Exodus 15:11 (Parallel theme): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Revelation 15:3 (Parallel theme): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org