

# Psalms 136:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.

## Analysis

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**The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever...—** Moon and stars for night - creation order testifies to God's faithfulness. **For his mercy endureth for ever** (פִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ, 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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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אֶת	הַיָּרֵחַ	וְכִכְבֵּימָם	לְמִשְׁלָל	בַּלַּיְלָה	כִּי	לְעוֹלָם
H853	<b>The moon</b>	<b>and stars</b>	<b>to rule</b>	<b>by night</b>	H3588	<b>endureth for ever</b>
	H3394	H3556	H4475	H3915		H5769

חֲסִדּוֹ:

**for his mercy**

H2617