

Psalm 136:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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** (כי לעזלם חסדו, 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

לְעוֹלָם מִלְּאַת אֶת־
בְּלִילָה לְמַמְשֵׁל וְתִּכְּבִּים בְּרִכְמִים
H853 The moon and stars to rule by night endureth for ever
H3394 H3556 H4475 H3915 H3588 H5769

מִסְדָּר:
for his mercy

H2617

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