

## **PSALM 136 2024 – Thanksgiving to God for His Enduring Mercy!**

6/8/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

**PSALM 136 - His Steadfast Love Endures Forever - sung in (1 Chr 16:41; 2 Chr. 7:3,6)**

### **3-fold praise to the Triune God**

*Psa 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

*Psa 136:2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.*

*Psa 136:3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:*

### **Six notes of praise to the Creator**

*Psa 136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—*

*Psa 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.*

### **Six more from deliverance from Egypt (Our salvation- A far greater miracle!)**

*Psa 136:10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:11 And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever;*

### **Seven more from journey through wilderness and entrance into the Promised Land**

*Psa 136:16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever—*

*Psa 136:19 Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:20 And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever—*

*Psa 136:21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:22 A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever.*

### **Two more re personal gratitude for present mercy**

*Psa 136:23 Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever;*

*Psa 136:24 And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever;*

### **One verse to tell of the Lord's universal providence**

*Psa 136:25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.*

### **Closing verse to excite never ending praise**

*Psa 136:26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy (26 X) endures forever (26X).*

**Psalm 136** – This psalm was to be sung back and forth. The priests took the first part and then the congregation would answer the second part; that is “*for His mercy endures forever.*” **Notice the truth that was impressed in their heart** by the time they finished that psalm? The truth that God wants to implant deep and indelibly within our hearts is that “*His mercy endures forever.*” All you have to do is call upon the Lord. His mercy is available for you. It really does not matter what the sin may be. **If you will turn to God and ask His forgiveness you will discover that His mercy endures forever!**

*Psa 136:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

- The exhortation is intensely earnest: the Psalmist pleads with the Lord's people with an “Oh,” repeating it three times. Thanks are the least that we can offer!
- “*For He is good.*” God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good! He is goodness itself, all that He does is good! He is good to His creatures. Let us thank Him that we have seen, proved, and tasted that He is good. He is good beyond all others; indeed, He alone is good in the highest sense. “*For His mercy endures forever.*” We shall have this repeated in every verse of this song, but not once too often. It is the sweetest stanza that a man can sing! What joy that there is mercy! Mercy with Jehovah. forever.

*Psa 136:2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.*

- If there be powers in heaven or on earth worthy of the name of gods, He is the God of them, from Him their dominion comes, their authority is derived from Him, and their very existence is dependent upon His will. ***“for His mercy endures forever.”*** Imagine supreme Godhead without everlasting mercy! It would then have been as fruitful a source of terror as it is now a fountain of thanksgiving.

***Psa 136:3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:***

- There are lords many, but Jehovah is the Lord of them all. All lordship is vested in the Eternal. He makes and administers law, He rules and governs mind and matter, He possesses in Himself all sovereignty and power. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, He mingles mercy with His justice, and reigns for the benefit of His subjects. A third time let us thank Him who is our Jehovah, our God, and our Lord; and let this one reason suffice us for three thanksgivings, or for three thousand -

***Psa 136:4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Jehovah is the great Wonderworker. None can be likened unto Him, He is alone in wonderland, the Creator and Worker of true marvels, compared with which all other remarkable things are as child's play. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** The mercy of the wonder is the wonder of the mercy; and the enduring nature of that mercy is the central wonder of that wonder.

***Psa 136:5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;***

- His goodness appears in creating the upper regions. He set His wisdom to the task of fashioning a firmament, or an atmosphere suitable for a world upon which mortal men should dwell. What a mass of wisdom lies hidden in this one creating act! ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** As high as heaven His wisdom reigns, Mercy on the throne remains.

***Psa 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Who but the Lord could have wrought this marvel? Few even think of the divine wisdom and power which performed all this of old; yet, if a continent can be proved to have risen or fallen an inch within historic memory, the fact is recorded in the “transactions” of learned societies, and discussed at every gathering of philosophers. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** From the flood He lifts the land. Firm His mercies ever stand.

***Psa 136:7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—***

- This also is a creating miracle worthy of our loudest thanks. What could men have done without light? Though they had the heavens above them, and dry land to move upon, yet what could they see, and where could they go without light? Thanks be to the Lord, who has not consigned us to darkness. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Mercy gleams in every ray of light, and it is most clearly seen in the arrangement by which it is distributed with order and regularity from the sun and moon.

***Psa 136:8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;***

- The sun is a great ruler, and His government is the pure doing good, because by God's mercy it is moderated to our feebleness; let all who rule take lessons from the sun which rules to bless. By day we may well give thanks, for God gives cheer. The sun rules because God rules. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Day unto day utters speech concerning the mercy of the Lord; every sunbeam is a mercy, for it falls on undeserving sinners who else would sit in doleful darkness, and find earth a hell.

***Eternally. Psa 136:9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.***

- No hour is left without rule. Blessed be God, He leaves us never to the doom of anarchy. The rule is one of light and benediction. The moon with her charming changes, and the stars in their fixed spheres gladden the night. The Lord is the Maker of every star, be the stars what they may; He calls them all by their names. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Let our thanks be as many as the stars, and let our lives reflect the goodness of the Lord, even as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

***Psa 136:10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;***

- The last and greatest of the plagues struck all Egypt to the heart. The sorrow and the terror which it caused throughout the nation it is hardly possible to exaggerate. “I will slay your son, even your firstborn.” Justice lingered but it struck home at last. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, even to the extremity of vengeance upon a whole nation the Lord's mercy to His people endured. For evermore His love shall last Forever sure, forever fast.

***Psa 136:11 And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Scattered as the tribes were up and down the country, and apparently held in a grasp which would never be relaxed, the Lord wrought their deliverance, and severed them from their idolatrous task-masters. None of them remained in bondage. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** The Lord's mercy endured that test also, and ceased not to stir up the nest till the birds were glad to take to their wings. For God does prove Our constant friend; His boundless love shall never end.

***Psa 136:12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever;***

- In the Exodus the great power and glory of Jehovah were seen. He dashed in pieces the enemy with His right hand. He led forth His people in no mean or clandestine manner. Even as was it in the deliverance of each one of us from sin: “according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.” “For His mercy endures forever.” - therefore His power is put forth for the rescue of His own. See He lifts His strong right hand, For His mercies steadfast stand.

***Psa 136:13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;***

- He made a road across the sea-bottom, causing the divided waters to stand like walls on either side. Men deny miracles; but, granted that there is a God, they become easy of belief. He who causes the waters of the sea ordinarily to remain as one mass can with equal readiness divide them. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** and therefore it endures through the sea as well as over the dry land. He will do a new thing to keep His old promise. His way is in the sea, and He will make a way for His people in the same pathless region.

***Psa 136:14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever;***

- He gave the people courage to follow the predestined track through the yawning abyss, which might well have terrified a veteran host. Here is the glory of God set forth, as all His people see it in their own deliverance from sin. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Mercy cleared the road, mercy cheered the host, mercy led them down, and mercy brought them up again.

***Psa 136:15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever;***

- The chariots were thrown over, the horses were overthrown. Broken was the power and conquered was the pride of Egypt. Jehovah had vanquished the enemy. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, mercy continued to protect its children, and therefore called in the aid of justice to fulfil the capital sentence on their foes. Evermore His love shall reign; Pharaoh and his host are slain.

***Psa 136:16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever;***

- He led them **into it**, and therefore **He was pledged to lead them through it**. They were “His people,” and yet they must go into the wilderness, and the wilderness must remain as barren as ever it was; but in the end they must come out of it into the promised land.
- ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Their conduct in the wilderness tested His mercy most severely, but it bore the strain; many a time He forgave them; and though He smote them for their transgressions, yet He waited to be gracious and speedily turned to them in compassion. For His mercy, changing never, Still endureth, sure forever.

***Psa 136:17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Within sight of their inheritance Israel had to face powerful enemies. Kings judged to be great because of the armies at their back blocked up their road. He who had subdued the really mighty ruler of Egypt made short work of these petty sovereigns, great though they were in the esteem of neighboring princes.
- ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** The Lord who smote Pharaoh at the beginning of the wilderness march, smote Sihon and Og at the close of it. How could these kings hope to succeed when even mercy itself was in arms against them.

***Psa 136:18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever—***

- What good was their fame to them? As they opposed God they became infamous rather than famous. Their deaths made the Lord's fame to increase among the nations while their fame ended in disgraceful defeat. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Kings, He smote despite their fame, For His mercy's still the same.

***Psa 136:19 Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Let the name be mentioned that the mercy may be the better remembered. Sihon smote Moab, but he could not smite Israel, for the Lord smote him. His fall was speedy and final. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** His mercy is no respecter of persons, and neither the greatness nor the fame of Sihon could protect him after he had dared to attack Israel. Come what may By night or day, Still most sure, His love shall endure!

***Psa 136:20 And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever—***

- He was of the race of the giants, but he was routed like a pigmy when he entered the lists with Israel's God. The Lord's people were called upon to fight against him, but it was God who won the victory. He had to exchange his 13.5 x 6 foot bedstead of iron for a bed in the dust. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Giant kings before Him yield, Mercy ever holds the field. He who delivers us out of one trouble will rescue us out of another, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His grace in us.

***Psa 136:21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;***

- As Lord of the whole earth He transferred His estate from one tenant to another. The land did not become the property of the Israelites by their own sword and bow, but by a grant from the throne. This was the great end which all along had been aimed at from Egypt to Jordan. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Faithful love endures without end, and secures its own end. Till they reach the promised land Mercy still the same must stand.

***Psa 136:22 A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever.***

- ***“Even an heritage to Israel his servant.”*** Repetitions are effective in poetry, and the more so if there be some little variation in them, bringing out into fuller light some point which else had not been noticed. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, mercy fights for the land, mercy divides the spoil among its favored ones, and mercy secures each man in his inheritance. Glory be to God the faithful One.

***Psa 136:23 Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Personal mercies awake the sweetest songs “He remembered us.” Our prayer is, “Lord remember me,” and this is our encouragement - He has remembered us. For the Lord even to think of us is a wealth of mercy. We thought ourselves too small and too worthless for His memory to burden itself about us, yet He remembered us. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Yes, this is one of the best proofs of the immutability of His mercy, for if He could have changed towards any, it would certainly have been towards us who have brought ourselves low. For His mercy full and free Lasts to eternity.

***Psa 136:24 And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever;***

- Israel's enemies brought the people low; but the Lord intervened, and turned the tables by a great redemption. Sin is our enemy, and we are redeemed from it by the atoning blood; Satan is our enemy and we are redeemed from him by the Redeemer's power; the world is our enemy, and we are redeemed from it by the Holy Spirit. We are ransomed, let us enjoy our liberty; Christ has wrought our redemption, let us praise His name. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** Even to redemption by the death of His Son did divine mercy stretch itself. Even to death upon the tree, Mercy endures faithfully.

***Psa 136:25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.***

- If we think of heavenly food, by which all saints are supplied, our praises rise to a still greater height; but meanwhile the universal goodness of God in feeding all His creatures is as worthy of praise as His special favors to the elect nation. Because the Lord feeds all life therefore we expect Him to take special care of His own family. ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** All things living He does feed, His full hand supplies their need; For His mercy shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

***Psa 136:26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.***

- The title is full of honor. The Lord is God in the highest realms, and among celestial beings. His throne is set in glory, above all, out of reach of foes, in the place of universal oversight. See herein the greatness of His nature, the depth of His condescension, and the range of His love. Mark the one sole cause of His bounty – ***“For His mercy endures forever.”*** He has done all things from this motive; and because His mercy never ceases, He will continue to multiply deeds of love world without end. Let us with all our powers of heart and tongue give thanks unto the holy name of Jehovah for ever and ever!

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **His mercy endures forever!** His mercy is without limit and His mercy will cover you! **He will never run out of it!**

**SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY** – John Petersen, Alfred Smith – Graham Crusade Choir (2:56)

*1 A pilgrim was I, and a wandering, In the cold night of sin I did roam,*

*When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.*

*(Chorus): Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life;*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.*

*2 He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day;*

*He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way. (Chorus)*

*3 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, And I shall feast at the table spread for me;*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.*

*All the days, all the days of my life.*

**PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL: CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP – FOR A NEW PERMANENT LOCATION!!**