

Highlights from the Psalms

Psalm 136

September 12, 2021

INTRO: A Psalm of praise written as a song or responsive reading. Possibly a Post-exilic psalm celebrating God's faithfulness and lovingkindness.

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD (vv.1-3)

A. Introduction to the psalm

i. Give thanks to the LORD (Jehovah)

"Thanks" is used 4 times in the psalm

ii. "For He is Good"

1. "Good" is a moral quality of God, and because He is God, it is an infinite quality. It has several inherent attributes:

pleasant, agreeable, cheerful, delightful fair, favorable, generous kind, gracious, upright . . .

2. One who is GOOD is safe, trustworthy, reliable, faithful, honest, and a Keeper of his promises

iii. "For His Lovingkindness is Everlasting"

1. "Loving" describes the nature of His kindness: He is not kind in general but in particular; He loves each of us individually

2. "kindness" describes His temperament in His love and goodness toward us

B. The repeated refrain occurs 26 times, once in each verse, and describes the motive behind each action

II. THE ANALYSIS OF THE PSALM BY STANZA

A. He does great wonders (vv.4-9)

B. He delivers us from evil (our enemies) (vv.10-15)

C. He is our Guide and Provider (v. 16)

D. He keeps all His promises (vv.17-22)

E. He is with us in our trials (vv. 23-25)

III. GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN

CONC: Reading of the Psalm as a responsive reading

PSALM 136

Thanks for the Lord's Goodness to Israel.

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 4 To Him who alone does great wonders,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 5 To Him who made the heavens with skill,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 6 To Him who spread out the earth above the waters,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 7 To Him who made the great lights,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
- 8 The sun to rule by day,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 9 The moon and stars to rule by night,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 10 To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 11 And brought Israel out from their midst,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 17 To Him who smote great kings,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 18 And slew mighty kings,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
- 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 20 And Og, king of Bashan,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 21 And gave their land as a heritage,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 22 Even a heritage to Israel His servant,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 23 Who remembered us in our low estate,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 24 And has rescued us from our adversaries,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 25 Who gives food to all flesh,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,
 For His lovingkindness is everlasting.