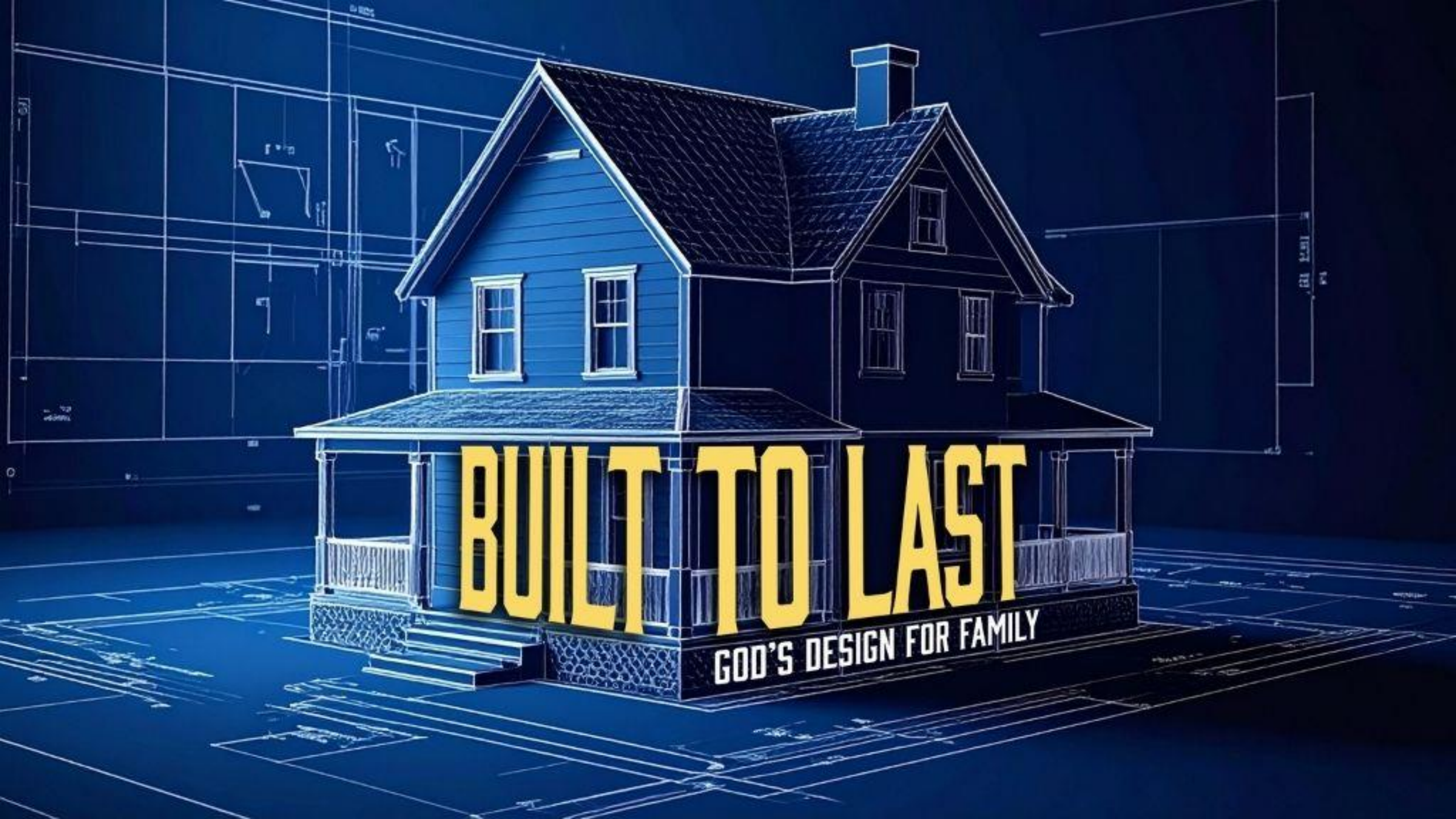




**BUILT TO LAST**

**GOD'S DESIGN FOR FAMILY**



# ***FOR WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL TODAY?***

Life

Children

Health

A place to live

Food to eat

The Word of God

Love

Salvation

Spouse

Friends

A job

Our nation

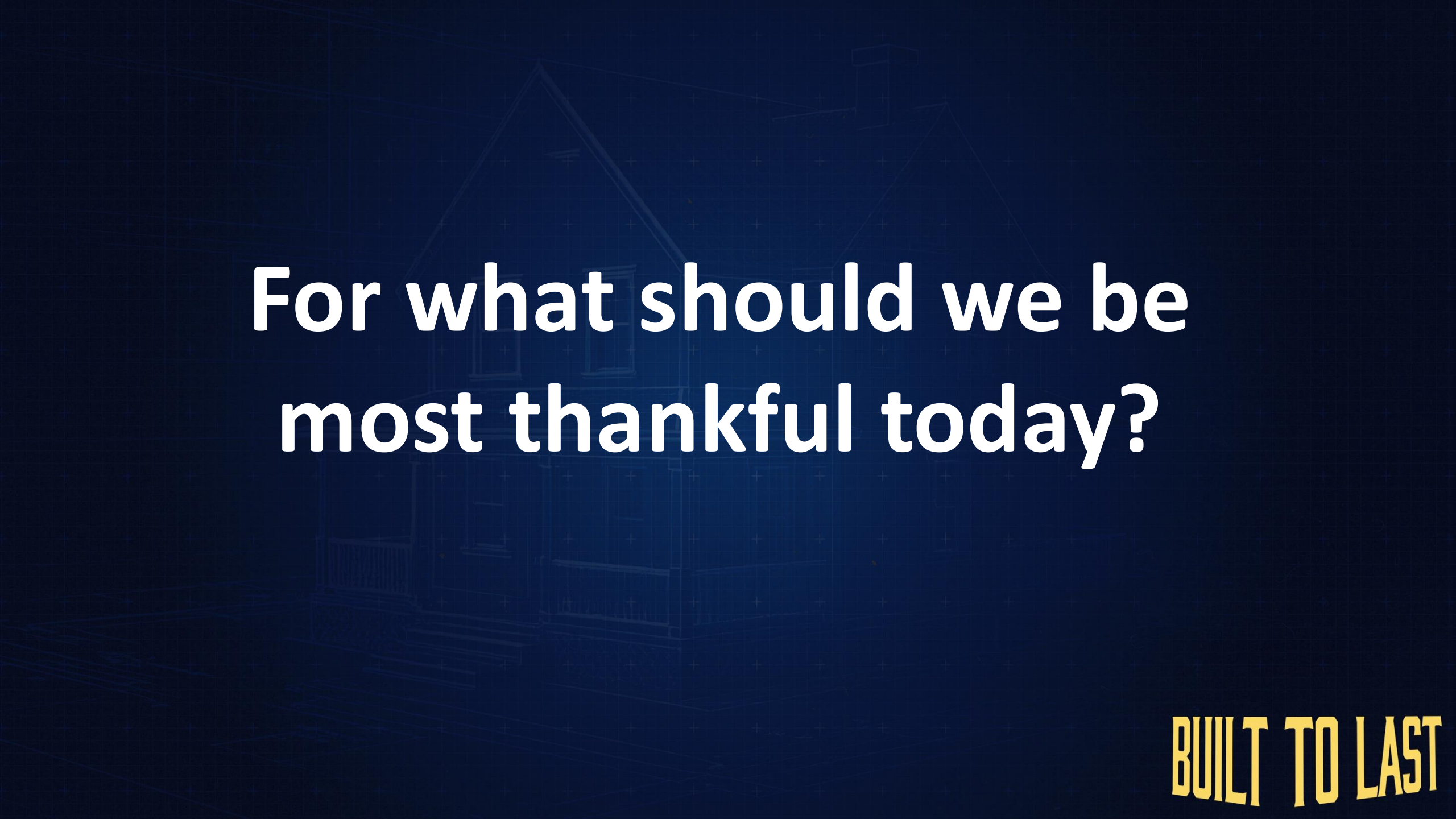
Opportunities

A church home

Hope

Eternal Life

**BUILT TO LAST**



**For what should we be  
most thankful today?**

**BUILT TO LAST**



O give **thanks** to the Lord, for He is  
good; for His lovingkindness is  
everlasting. 1 Chronicles 16:34

הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ

**BUILT TO LAST**

# Psalm 111

This is one of 14 acrostic psalms, arranged according to the Hebrew alphabet. Except for the opening line of “Praise the Lord” (Hallelujah), each of the 22 lines of Psalm 111 begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

**BUILT TO LAST**



# Sing Hallelujah

Praise the Lord! I will give **thanks** to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly [public]. Psalm 111:1

“Praise the Lord” = הַלְלוּ-יָהּ Hallelujah

Phrase found 24 times in the book of Psalms

In the Hebrew Bible hallelujah is actually a two-word phrase, not one word. The first part, *hallelu*, is the second-person imperative masculine plural form of the Hebrew verb *hallal*. However, "hallelujah" means more than simply "praise Yah", as the word *hallel* in Hebrew means a joyous praise in song, to boast in God. The second part, *Yah*, is a shortened form of Yahweh, the name for the Creator. - Wikipedia

**BUILT TO LAST**

# Praise God for His Works

Great are the works [deeds] of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.

Splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

Psalm 111:2-3

- Have you remembered the works of God in your life?
- Have you told others?

**BUILT TO LAST**



# God's Deeds Remind Us of His Grace

He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever. He has made known to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. Psalm 111:4-6

- Verse 4 literally says 'A remembrance/memorial He has made in respect of His wonders'
- People build altars to be reminded of God's grace

**BUILT TO LAST**



# Praise God for His Truth

The works of His hands are truth and justice;  
all His precepts are sure (unchangeable).  
They are upheld forever and ever; they are  
performed in truth and uprightness.

Psalms 111:7-8

**BUILT TO LAST**

# God Calls and God Cares

He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; holy and awesome is His name. Psalm 111:9

- Thus the unmerited grace and passionate love which flowed out first in redemption, brought the Lord's people within the embrace of His covenant where they experience His providential care in daily needs, His power over all the power of their enemies, and His Word by which they live.

— New Bible Commentary

**BUILT TO LAST**



# His Praise Endures Forever

The fear [reverence, respect] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10

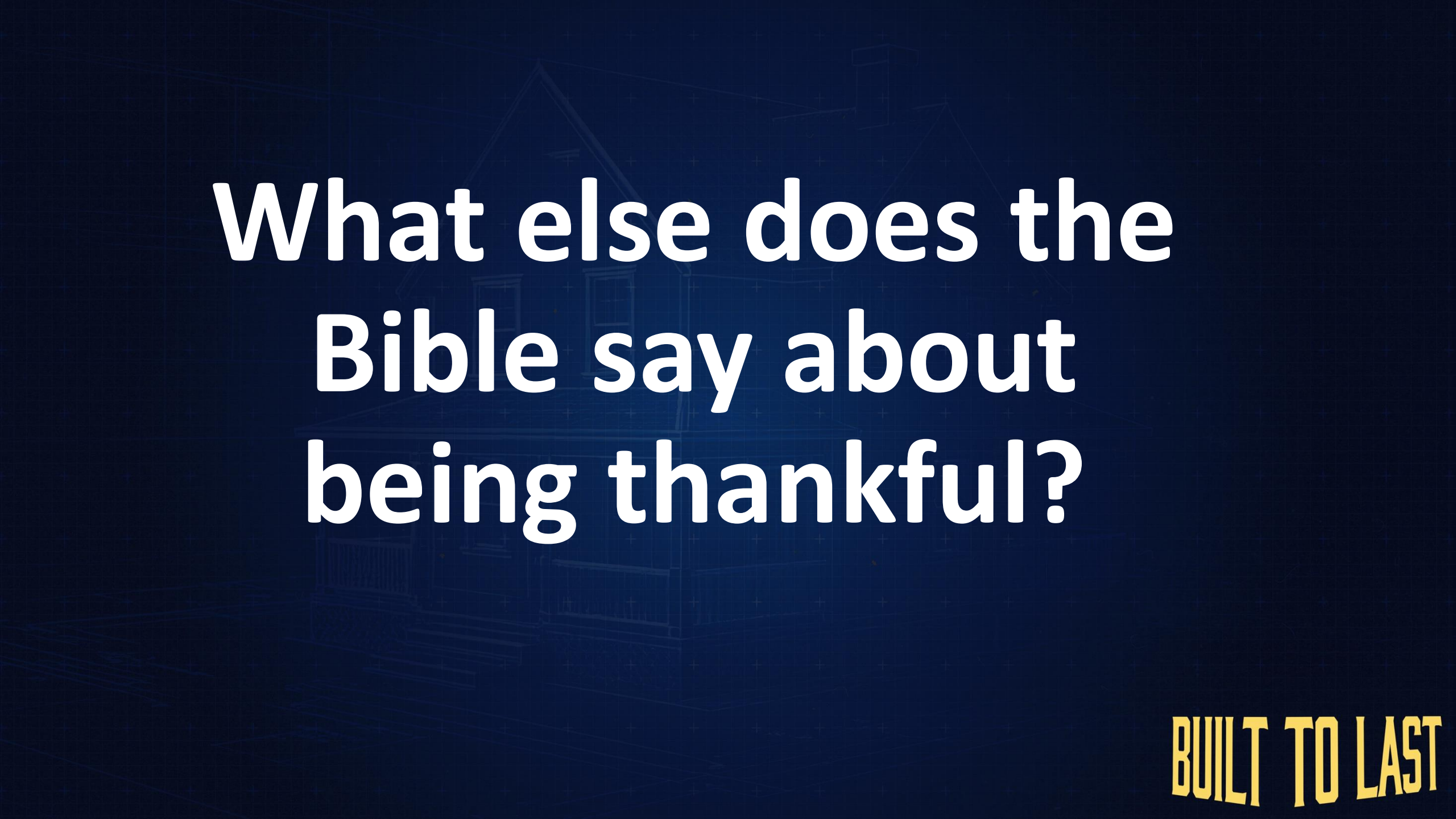
- “The beginning of wisdom is not found in keen insight, nor wide experience, nor the learning of the schools, but in the temper of reverence and awe.” - Dean Plumptre

**BUILT TO LAST**

- “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the **fear** [יִרְאַה *yir’ah* reverence, piety, respect] **of the Lord**, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.’ ” Job 28:28
- The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7
- The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10
- The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God** and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. Ecclesiastes 12:13

**BUILT TO LAST**





**What else does the  
Bible say about  
being thankful?**

**BUILT TO LAST**

“Offer to God a sacrifice of **thanksgiving** and pay your vows to the Most High” Psalm 50:14

“We give **thanks** to You, O God, we give **thanks**, for Your name is near” Psalm 75:1

“It is good to give **thanks** to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High” Psalm 92:1

“Be glad in the Lord, you righteous ones, and give **thanks** to His holy name.” Psalm 97:12

“Let them give **thanks** to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men!” Psalm 107:21-22

**BUILT TO LAST**



“always giving **thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father” Ephesians 5:20

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** through Him to God the Father.”  
Colossians 3:17

“I **thank** Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief” 1 Timothy 1:12-13

**BUILT TO LAST**

“**Thanks** be to God for His indescribable gift!”

2 Corinthians 9:15

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give **thanks** to His name.”

Hebrews 13:15

“And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and **thanksgiving** and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’”

Revelation 7:11

**BUILT TO LAST**



“Through Him [Jesus] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give **thanks** to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:15-16

- Thanksgiving is an attitude that should turn into actions.

**BUILT TO LAST**

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;  
**in everything give thanks**; for this is  
God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- The English word “in” is the Greek preposition ἐν which could be translated as “in” or “with” or “through”

**BUILT TO LAST**



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**”

Colossians 2:6-7

- We START our spiritual journeys with thankfulness and should CONTINUE our journeys with thankfulness.

**BUILT TO LAST**



# Psalm 136

**BUILT TO LAST**



- Psalm 136 is a special psalm, with each one of its 26 verses repeating the sentence, His mercy endures forever. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the phrase has somewhat of a liturgical sense to it, as if the assembled people of Israel said or sung this in response to the direction of the Levites leading singing and worship. Ezra indicates that this encouragement was part of a responsive singing among God's people: And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel."
- The sentence is used several other times in the Old Testament, each time in the context of some kind of public praise or declaration. His mercy endures forever is found:
- In David's psalm of praise recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:7-36.
- In the assignments of the priests in David's day (1 Chronicles 16:41).
- In Israel's praise at the dedication of Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:3, 7:6).
- In the record of the LORD's victory over the Ammonites as they praised (2 Chronicles 20:21).
- In the future praise by Israel after the destruction suffered in the Babylonian conquest (Jeremiah 33:10-11).
- In the dedication of Ezra's temple (Ezra 3:11).
- We picture a great multitude of the people of God gathered in the temple courts. A priest or Levite would call out a reason to give God thanks, and His people would respond with, "For His mercy endures forever."

Give **thanks** to the Lord [Yahweh], for  
He is good, for His lovingkindness is  
everlasting. Psalm 136:1

הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי-טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ

- A general statement of gratitude

**BUILT TO LAST**



“for His lovingkindness (mercy, grace) is everlasting”

“ki L’olam hasdo” כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד

|                |        |       |
|----------------|--------|-------|
| Lovingkindness | חֶסֶד  | hesed |
| Everlasting    | עוֹלָם | olam  |

- His lovingkindness is “everlasting” or “forever”
- *olam* in Hebrew also means “infinite” – God has no dimension, He is infinite in all dimensions (unmeasurable)

**BUILT TO LAST**

Give **thanks** to the God [Elohim] of gods, for  
His lovingkindness is everlasting. Give **thanks**  
to the Lord [Adonai] of lords, for His  
lovingkindness is everlasting. To Him who  
alone does great wonders, for His  
lovingkindness is everlasting; Psalm 136:2-4

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**



to Him who made the heavens with skill, for His lovingkindness is everlasting; to Him who spread out the earth above the waters [Genesis 1:2], for His lovingkindness is everlasting; to Him who made the great lights [Genesis 1:14-18], for His lovingkindness is everlasting: the sun to rule by day [Genesis 1:16], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, the moon and stars to rule by night, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 136:5-9

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**

To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn  
[Exodus 12:29], for His lovingkindness is everlasting,

## Psalms 136:10

- Why does verse 10 only mention the death of the firstborn during the Exodus from Egypt?
- Where are the other 9 plagues?
- Jewish commentaries say, “We don’t celebrate the suffering of the Egyptians, we only celebrate the salvation and redemption God performed for His people.”

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**



and brought Israel out from their midst

[Exodus 12:51-13:3], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm

[Exodus 6:1,6], for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalm 136:11-12

- Strong hand and outstretched arm... Thanks to God's intervention, the Jews left Egypt with their heads held high. God could have taken them out during the plague of darkness (9<sup>th</sup> plague - Exodus 10:21-29), but that would have been sneaking out like thieves.

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ "ki L'olam hasdo"

**BUILT TO LAST**

To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder [Exodus 14:21], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, and made Israel pass through the midst of it [Exodus 14:22], for His lovingkindness is everlasting; but He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea [Exodus 14:27], for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 136:13-15

- Verses 13-15 could have been reduced to a single verse... when there is elaboration in scripture, there is always a reason. We are to thank God for everything He does, not just the results.

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**



To Him who led His people through the wilderness [Exodus 13:18, 15:22], for His lovingkindness is everlasting; to Him who smote great kings [Psalm 135:10-12, 136:17-22], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, and slew mighty kings, for His lovingkindness is everlasting: Sihon, king of the Amorites [Numbers 21:21-24], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, and Og, king of Bashan [Numbers 21:33-35], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, and gave their land as a heritage [Joshua 12:1], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, even a heritage to Israel His servant [Isaiah 41:8], for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 136:16-22

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**

Who remembered us in our low estate

[Psalm 9:12, 103:14], for His lovingkindness is everlasting, and  
has rescued us from our adversaries [Judges 6:9, Nehemiah 9:28],  
for His lovingkindness is everlasting;

Psalm 136:23-24

- When has God shown up in the middle of your dark and painful days?
- When has He protected you from evil?

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**



Who gives food to all flesh [Psalm 104:27], for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 136:25

- For there is no partiality with God.  
Romans 2:11

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**

# A Final Reminder

Give **thanks** to the God of heaven

לְאֵל הַשָּׁמַיִם [Genesis 24:3,7; 2 Chronicles 36:23, Nehemiah 1:4], for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalms 136:25-26

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ “ki L’olam hasdo”

**BUILT TO LAST**



# Lessons from Psalm 136

- One weakness with our prayer lives is we lack stamina and patience
- Another weakness is that we forget the past
- Truly thankful people remember the past and remember God's goodness

**BUILT TO LAST**

Psalm 136 is a song of gratitude, giving thanks to God for a variety of circumstances and events. Sometimes we give thanks generally (“for He is good” in verse 1), sometimes we give thanks specifically (“divided the Red Sea” in verse 13).

Grateful people understand that God is always at work. Grateful people remember their past. Grateful people look back and see God’s hand in every circumstance.

**BUILT TO LAST**





**"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."**

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

**BUILT TO LAST**

for His lovingkindness is everlasting

ki L'olam hasdo

כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ

**BUILT TO LAST**