

Summer Psalms  
**HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER**

Wednesday, August 6

Reading: Psalms 136

**Psalm 136:1** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. **2** Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. **3** Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. **4** to Him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

Things are not made the way they used to be. We live in a disposable society. Things are used and quickly thrown away. Even the new products we purchase have a shorter lifespan than things made even a few decades ago. But even back in the “good old days” things did not last forever. All things eventually wear out and are discarded. Except for the love of God.

Psalm 136 echoes this refrain in every verse. This psalm gives us an example of how the people worshipped in the Temple. The priest or Levite who was leading would sing the first line and the people would respond in unison with “His love endures forever.” The word “love” here is that great Hebrew word we have discussed previously in the psalms - *hesed*. It is a word so deep, ten to fifteen English words only begin to scratch the surface of what it means.

“Give thanks” (*yadah*) and “praise” (*hallel*) are usually linked in the psalms. They can be used interchangeably to describe the worship of God’s people. The opening verses of Psalm 136 use three names for God (136:1-4). “LORD” translates the name of God - *Yahweh*. It is the covenant name of God - “I AM.” “God of gods” translates *Elohim* which speaks of God as Creator and Judge. “Lord of lords” translates *Adonai* which means Master or King. We must praise God for all that He is, not just for what He has done.

The psalm praises God for His wonderful creation (136:5-9) and for the salvation, protection, and victory He gives to His people (136:10-22). In the closing verses (136:23-26) the people are reminded of their lowly state. The Hebrew word speaks of someone who has no power, no influence, and no position in society. The Israelites knew that God did not choose them because they were better than everyone else (see Deuteronomy 7:6-8). They were chosen out of God’s love and redeemed (“freed” in NIV) because He remembered His promises.

We too were chosen and redeemed “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5). Sit down some day and make a list of at least 26 ways that God has shown His eternal love and mercy (*hesed*) to your family, your church, your personal life. Make this a regular habit so you never forget that “His love endures forever.”