



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

April 3rd, 2024

**“Song of Christ’s Enduring Mercy”
Psalm 136**

PSALM 136

We know not by whom this psalm was written, but we do know that it was sung in Solomon's temple (2 Chron. vii. 3, 6), and by the armies of Jehoshaphat when they sang themselves into victory in the wilderness of Tekoa. From the striking form of it we should infer that it was a popular hymn among the Lord's ancient people. Most hymns with a solid, simple chorus become favourites with congregations, and this is sure to have been one of the best beloved. It contains nothing but praise. It is tuned to rapture, and can only be fully enjoyed by a devoutly grateful heart.

It commences with a three-fold praise to the Triune Lord (1-3), then it gives us six notes of praise to the Creator (4-9), six more upon deliverance from Egypt (10-15), and seven upon the journey through the wilderness and the entrance into Canaan. Then we have two happy verses of personal gratitude for present mercy (23 and 24), one (verse 25) to tell of the Lord's universal providence, and a closing verse to excite to never-ending praise.

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 136

REFLECTION. *for His steadfast love endures forever!* is used as something of a chorus 26 times after every declarative statement in this psalm. It is rendered "for His mercy endureth forever" (KJV). This wonderful truth comes from the Hebrew words כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ (khiy l'ō-LAM CHAS-dō). Biblical "grace" is defined by Webster's 1828 Dictionary as "the free unmerited love and favour of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from Him." In other words, because of God's grace, believers receive the blessings of God because of His loving nature and not because of anything we have done. Biblical "mercy" however, may be defined as the compassionate treatment of a person, withholding from that person the punishment rightly deserved. The Hebrew word, חַסֵּד (CHĀS-ād), means 'mercy, pity, favor, beauty, kindness,' and is often translated 'steadfast love' (ESV). While YHVH God is a holy and just God, through the atoning grace of Jesus Christ, God is merciful; that is, He is full of mercy because of His steadfast love... for His only Son, Jesus Christ, and all those whom Christ has redeemed by His loving grace and mercy. Christ's mercy is as eternal as He is. Therefore, those who are beneficiaries of Christ's mercy can never lose their salvation *for His steadfast love endures forever*. It is written,

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6).

MEDITATIONS IN CONSIDERING CHRIST'S STEADFAST LOVE (MERCY):

v1. Jesus is good because He is God. **Mark 10:18**

v2. Jesus is God of gods. **John 20:28**

v3. Jesus is Lord of lords. **Rev 19:16**

v4. Jesus does great wonders. **Rev 15:3**

v5. Jesus made the heavens. **Heb 1:2**

v6. Jesus made the earth. **Rev 4:11**

vv7-9. Jesus created the great lights: the sun, moon, & stars. **John 1:3**

v10. Jesus was the righteous Judge in Egypt. **John 5:27; Rom 2:16**

vv11-12. Jesus was Israel's great Deliverer. **Rom 11:26; 1 Thess 1:10**

vv13-16. Jesus parted the Red Sea & led Israel in the wilderness. **1 Cor 10:1-5**

vv17-22. Jesus defeated the enemies of His people. **1 Cor 15:25**

v23. Jesus lifted His people's low estate. **Jas 2:5**

v24. Jesus rescued His people in victory. **Rom 8:37**

v25. Jesus nourishes those He has saved. **Ezek 36:30; John 6:53-58**

v26. Jesus is worthy of thanksgiving for His steadfast love. **Rev 4:9; 11:16-17**

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 136

CONSIDER how repetitive the truth is about Christ's steadfast love; and consider why it is necessary for God to tell us so repetitively.

1. Read the Scripture references attached to each of the verses or sets of verses in Psalm 136 above. Meditate upon the truth of Christ's fulfillment therein until you own it as a sure inheritance.
2. This week, list some ways in which God has been merciful to you and **thank Him** for His steadfast love.
3. Reflect upon how you have seen God's mercy & steadfast love in the lives of others, list them, and thank Him for them, as well as for His steadfast love.
4. Can you praise Jesus with your own psalm from the list of His merciful kindnesses you have witnessed in your life and in the lives of others, repeating, "*for His steadfast love endures forever!*" at the end of each item on your list.
5. Share with at least one other person this week of how God's mercy and steadfast love has been experienced in your life.

My Notes for Considering Psalm 136:

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