

Studies In Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 136

4/23/13

Psalm 136 Why Worship God? "For His Mercy Endures Forever"

This is almost a repetition of [Psalm 135](#), but with the phrase "For His mercy endures forever" added to each verse (26 times). That phrase was ordered at the dedication of the tabernacle by David ([1 Chronicles 16:41](#)), at the dedication of Solomon's Temple ([2 Chronicles 7:1-6](#)), and before battle by Jehoshaphat ([2 Chronicles 20:20-22](#)). It means without God's guiding "mercy," they would not be a nation.

"Mercy" (willingness to relieve the price of sins) is mentioned in 129 verses in the Book of Psalms. The "mercy of God" kept Israelites together until Jesus Christ came, and now God's "mercy" is for both Jews and Gentiles through Jesus Christ ([Romans 11:30-32](#); [Galatians 3:22-29](#)). To illustrate God's "mercy," evidence is drawn from the written history of God's Word. AND for those mid-guided commentators who think the Old Testament God is hateful and violent, His motive for providing and protecting Israel as a nation was so that He could provide mercy for all who will obey Jesus Christ today ([Ephesians 2:1-7](#))!

Verses 1-3: "Give thanks to the LORD" for: "He is good;" He is above all "gods;" He is "the Lord of lords!"

Verses 4-9: True science is the uncovering of the "wisdom" God used in the Creation. His orderliness precisely designed the "heavens." And, He has done these "great wonders" "alone!" This is detailed in [Genesis 1-2](#).

Verses 10-15: God broke Egypt as a dominating power when He "brought out Israel from among them" in establishing them as His Nation. This is detailed in [Exodus 1-14](#).

Verses 16-22: God destroyed all nations in Canaan that Israel might be given the land He had promised Abraham. This is detailed in the Book of [Joshua](#).

Verses 23-24: In the Promised Land, when Israelites repented of their sins, God continued to lead them to victories over their enemies by raising up a "judge." This is detailed in the Book of [Judges](#).



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Verse 25: All food is produced because God’s mercy gives orderly seasons ([Genesis 8:22](#); [Acts 14:15-17](#)). Solomon will acknowledge: “Moreover the profit of the land is for all; *even* the king is served from the field” ([Ecclesiastes 5:9](#)). It is pathetic poverty of spirit when people are taught to forget this fact!

Verse 26: We must never cease thanking “the God of heaven” ([1 Thessalonians 5:17-18](#)).

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