

Psalm 136:1-26: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; the moon & stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his steadfast love endures forever; & brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever; with a strong hand & an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever; & made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever; but overthrew Pharaoh & his host in the Red Sea, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever; to him who struck down great kings, for his steadfast love endures forever; & killed mighty kings, for his steadfast love endures forever; Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his steadfast love endures forever; & Og, king of Bashan, for his steadfast love endures forever; & gave their land as a heritage, for his steadfast love endures forever; a heritage to Israel his servant, for his steadfast love endures forever. It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; & rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever; he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Intro: This Psalm is about the radiant, relentless, resilient, unchanging, unstoppable, unconquerable, incomprehensible, persistent, powerful, pursuing, passionate, personal, transforming, tenacious, and never ending love, grace, and mercy of God toward sinners! God is like a pit bull; Like the hound of heaven – Psalm 23!

James Montgomery Boice: The word that is used for "love" in this refrain is the powerful Hebrew term *hesed*, which means "covenant love" or the favor God shows to those with whom He has entered into a covenant relationship. Sometimes it is translated "steadfast (or "enduring") love." It is enduring because God is a God of His word. He is forever good, and He does not break His covenant. One night in February 358 A.D. the church father Athanasius held an all-night service at his church in Alexandria, Egypt. He had been leading the fight for the eternal sonship and deity of Jesus Christ, knowing that the survival of Christianity depended on it. He had many enemies – for political even more than theological reasons – and they moved the power of the Roman government against him. That night the church was surrounded by soldiers with drawn swords. People were frightened. With calm presence of mind Athanasius announced the singing of Psalm 136. The vast congregation responded, thundering forth twenty-six times, "His [steadfast] love endures forever." When the soldiers burst through the doors they were staggered by the singing. Athanasius kept his place until the congregation was dispersed. Then he too disappeared in the darkness and found refuge with his friends. Many citizens of Alexandria were killed that night, but the people of Athanasius's congregation never forgot that although man is evil, God is good. He is superlatively good, and "His [steadfast] love endures forever."

David Howard and Michael Snearly: This Psalm restates highlights of God's work in the first five books of the Bible: Creation; Exodus; Red Sea; Wilderness; Sihon/Og; Giving of the Promised Land (**See Jesus in all these!**)

May we see God's love for us today in all that He is for us and in all that He does for us as His people! May this move us to thank Him! May this move us to pray in 2021! May we pray the Bible! And may we see Jesus!

1. God Is An Amazing, Loving God

a. We thank and praise God for demonstrating His love for us because of Who He is and because of what He's done: He is good!

Spurgeon: Essentially he is goodness itself, practically all that he does is good, relatively he is good to his creatures. Let us thank him that we have seen, proved, and tasted that he is good. He is good beyond all others: indeed, he alone is good in the highest sense; he is the source of good, the good of all good, the sustainer of good, the perfecter of good, and the rewarder of good. For this he deserves the constant gratitude of his people.

He is the God of gods! He is the Lord of lords! He alone does great wonders!

Acts 17:24-25: The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Humble people recognize God's greatness and give thanks: 1 Thess. 5:18: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Who He is and what He's done demonstrates His steadfast love to us that endures forever! The most loving act God has done is to give us Himself! And in order for this to happen, Jesus had to come, live, die, and rise again!

b. We thank and praise God for demonstrating His love for us as the Creator: Verses 5-9: He made the heavens; He spread out the earth above the waters; He made the great lights; He made the sun to rule over the day and the moon and stars to rule over the night: all of this demonstrates His forever enduring love toward us!

c. We thank and praise God for demonstrating His love for us as the Conqueror: Verses 10-20: He struck down the firstborn of Egypt; He brought Israel out from among them with a strong hand & an outstretched arm; He divided the Red Sea in two & made Israel pass through the midst of it; He overthrew Pharaoh & his host in the Red Sea; He led his people through the wilderness; He struck down great kings & killed mighty kings, Sihon, king of the Amorites & Og, king of Bashan. And He did all of this because He loves His people with an everlasting love!

d. We thank and praise God for demonstrating His love for us as the One Who Cares for us: Verses 21-25: He gave their land as a heritage; He remembered us in our low estate and rescued us from our foes; He gives food to all flesh. He cares for us in all these ways because He loves us with an ever enduring, everlasting love! GOSPEL

2. Adore God In Prayer

A. C. T. S. - Adoration; Confession; Thanksgiving; Supplication

- Do you ever simply adore God in prayer? Adore and worship Him for Who He is and for what He has done?
- Adore Him as Creator? Adore Him as Conqueror? Adore Him as the One Who Cares for you?! Sing hymns?!

3. Thank God In Prayer

- Do you ever simply thank God in prayer?
- Thank Him as Creator? Thank Him as Conqueror? Thank Him as the One Who cares for you?!

4. Repetition Is Not Bad In Prayer

The phrase "For his steadfast love endures forever" occurs 26 times in the Psalm. Once in every single verse!

Spurgeon: It is the sweetest stanza that a man can sing!

- **1 John 4:16:** God is love

- **Jeremiah 31:3:** I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

- **1 John 4:10:** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- **Romans 5:8:** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **Romans 8:35-39:** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(You can't be a Christian and then cease to be a Christian!)**

- **Zephaniah 3:17:** The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with loud singing.

5. Pray God's Word In Prayer

Pray the Psalms – pray the Word of God!

Romans 12:9-17: Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

6. Pray

Pray in this service; Pray by yourself at home, in the car, while your walking, all the time; Pray through the membership directory; Pray Wednesday night; Pray every weeknight at 7pm; Pray at noon on weekdays

7. See Jesus In Psalm 136

a. We give thanks to Jesus: 1 Timothy 1:12: I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord

Luke 17:15-16: Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.

Grudem and Schreiner: Elsewhere in the NT such giving of thanks (Gk. eucharisteo) is always directed to God (in every one of the 37 other occurrences of this verb).

b. We call Jesus Lord: John 20:28: Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Philippians 2:11: every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

c. Jesus is good: John 10:11: I am the good shepherd.

d. Jesus' steadfast love endures forever: Galatians 2:20: the Son of God, who loved me & gave himself for me.

Ephesians 3:18-19: may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

e. Jesus does great wonders: Isaiah 9:6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor

Acts 2:22: Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

f. God the Son created the world: Colossians 1:16-17: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

g. Jesus is the Passover Lamb: 1 Corinthians 5:7: For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

h. Jesus rescued Israel from Egypt: Jude 1:5: Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

i. Jesus lead Israel in the wilderness: 1 Corinthians 10:4: all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

j. Jesus will destroy all His & our enemies: Rev 19:11-16: Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, & on his head are many diadems, & he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, & the name by which he is called is The Word of God. & the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white & pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, & he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe & on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings & Lord of lords.

k. Through Jesus we will inherit the whole world: Romans 4:13: For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

l. Jesus has remembered us, just like He remembered the thief on the cross: Luke 23:42-43: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." & he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

m. Jesus rescued us from our greatest foes: 1 Thessalonians 1:10: wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

n. Jesus provides food for the hungry: He fed the multitudes – thousands of people!

Revelation 2:7: To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 19:9: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

o. Jesus gives us peace and rest: Matthew 11:28-30: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Jesus Christ Gave Thanks And Praise
To His LORD And God Always
He's Lord of lords Whose Words Amaze
He Died To Free Us From Hell's Blaze
Then From The Tomb We Saw Him Raise
We Celebrate This All Sundays

He Conquered Death New Life Displays
So Trust The Son And All His Ways
He'll Never Leave And Never Strays
But For Your Peace Forever Stays
So On His Steadfast Love Let's Gaze
You'll Thank And Praise Him All Your Days!