

Psalm 136

The author of this psalm is unknown; however, it is very evident that the author was a person who wished to praise God as the Psalm is devoted to giving God thanks. The key element provoking the thanksgiving is the everlasting mercy of God.

- I. The call to give thanks **Vs 1-3**
 - A. God is good **Vs 1**
 - 1. God is the picture of all that is good; God=good
 - 2. Anything or anyone not displaying godly characteristic is not good
 - B. God is sovereign **Vs 2**
 - C. God is the master over all masters **Vs 3**

- II. The reasons for giving thanks **Vs 4-26**
 - A. The master of powerful, majestic, marvelous exhibitions of all sorts **Vs 4**
 - B. The creator of the heavens which includes all the elements of space above **Vs 5-9**
 - 1. All things in the heavens, known and unknown by man were created by God speaking them into existence **Vs 5**
 - 2. The earth and how it interacts with itself to maintain balance and provide a place for humanity to live **Vs 6**
 - 3. The sun and moon and their interaction with each other to provide the necessary light for humanity day and night **Vs 7-9**
 - C. The wonderful protector and provider for his people **Vs 10-26**
 - 1. Removing Israel from the slavery imposed upon them by Egypt **Vs 10-15**
 - 2. Guiding rebellious Israel through the wilderness journey **Vs 16-25**
 - a. Protecting and delivering them from powerful rulers and nations **Vs 17-20**
 - (1) Sihon-the Amorite king who would not allow Israel to pass through their land but instead went to war against Israel, only to be defeated by God Numbers 21
 - (2) Og-the king of Bashan who also went to war against Israel but were defeated by God Numbers 21
 - (3) These two kings and kingdoms were the first of many defeated by God in behalf of Israel
 - b. Providing earthly possessions for Israel along the way **Vs 21-24**
 - (1) Their land for an heritage-the land of these two kings became the possession of Israel, given to them as an inheritance by God, since he had created the land in the first place **Vs 21-22**
 - (2) God gave these kingdoms to Israel at a time when they were unable to provide for and protect themselves **Vs 23-24**
 - C. Providing necessary food and provisions for their everyday needs **Vs 25**

- III. The recognition of God's dwelling place **Vs 26**
 - A. The God of heaven-the one who sits on a throne high above and is in the position of observing and controlling all that takes place in the universe
 - B. This sovereign ruler, although powerful to do as he wishes, chooses to be merciful to sinner