

There is no theme more wonderful in the entire Bible than the theme of the grace of God and the mercy of God. Paul said God is rich in mercy and He made us alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:4). There is no greater theme about which to study or sing. It is a theme for which we should always give thanks. This is a Psalm that teaches that and demands that.

Now the “lovingkindness” or “mercy” of God is everlasting. Everlasting means it does not end. The mercy of God is endless. Now when we look down through this Psalm you will notice that this phrase “for His lovingkindness or mercy is everlasting” is used in 26 of 26 verses. Each verse ends by reaffirming the point that this mindset of God is forever.

The actual Hebrew word that is used here is “chesed” which refers to the merciful, gracious, lovingkindness of God. It specifically has to do with God showing His affection and mercy as He condescends to help the needs of His miserable and helpless creatures (Brown-Driver-Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 338-339). William Gesenius said the Hebrew word refers to an eager desire of God to pour out His love, mercy and favor on those who find themselves in a misfortunate situation (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 294).

God has a merciful and loving concern for His property. His mercy and lovingkindness is connected to everything. Dr. Wiersbe said grace gives me what I do not deserve and mercy does not give me what I do deserve.

This is part of His forever character. In other words, it is always within the character of God to do merciful and kind things to His creation. No matter what God does, this part of Him is forever.

Now there can be no doubt that God does things for all creation because of this, but specifically those in a right relationship with Him experience this at a whole new level. They are those who should always praise God. That is the point:

GOD IS TO BE THANKED AND PRAISED BECAUSE HIS EVERLASTING MERCY AND CARE ARE INVOLVED IN EVERY ASPECT OF CREATION AND LIFE.

As we look down through the Psalm it may shock some as to what His mercy did. **God’s grace and mercy are not only seen in the salvation of His people, but also in the destruction of their enemies.**

Three times in the opening verses (**136:1, 2, 3**), and one time in the concluding verse (**136:26**), God’s people are challenged to “give thanks to God.” The lists of things that show up in the Psalm are all things that God’s grace and mercy have provided.

So the Psalm lists 26 reasons that we are to give thanks to God, all due to the mercy of God:

Reason #1 - God is good because His mercy endures forever. **136:1**

God is the only Being who is intrinsically and infinitely good. We aren't good. The goodness of God is cause for us to thank God and this goodness is rooted in His mercy. Everything about God is good. He is a good God who does good things. God has no logical reason for treating humanity this way but He does because of His mercy.

Reason #2 - God is the God of all gods and His mercy endures forever. **136:2**

Heathens worshipped all kinds of deities and still do. But there is only one true God and He is the only Supreme God who is above all that others consider to be God. Thank God that He is a merciful God.

Reason #3 - God is the Lord of lords and His mercy endures forever. **136:3**

All three names of God show up in the first three verses: **Verse 1** is Jehovah, **verse 2** is Elohim and **verse 3** is Adonai. Each name is critical to God and each noun is connected to the mercy of God.

God is the Supreme Ruler over all rulers. There is no one higher than Him. Thank God He is a merciful God because with this kind of power, He would not have to be.

Reason #4 - God alone does great wonders and His mercy endures forever. **136:4**

God alone has absolute power. He does wondrous things with that power. When we lived out west we used to go to Galena Summit which was located in the Sawtooth mountain range. Up on that summit is a little trickle of water is the beginning of the powerful Salmon River that runs 425 miles through Idaho. Now who has this kind of power to be able to do this?

Reason #5 - God made the heavens with skill and His mercy endures forever. **136:5**

God created everything with great skill. Can anyone explain how a planet just hangs in space? There are not bolts holding it down. Can anyone explain meteors that shoot this way and that way? All we can do is look up and admire the heavens. It is a place of mercy. It is a place of angels. It is a place of the redeemed.

Reason #6 - God spread out the earth above the waters for His mercy endures forever. **136:6**

God created a wonderful earth for people to live on because of His mercy. If the earth were smaller or larger the atmosphere would be different and could not sustain life. We can easily see that the earth sits above the waters. Swamps prove it and so do wells.

Reason #7 - God made the great lights of the sky for His mercy endures forever. **136:7**

God did not need the lights in the sky, we do. Do you realize that we see the same lights Adam and Eve saw? We see the same lights David and Solomon saw. We see the same lights Paul saw. The mercy of God is in every bit of this. These are distinct lights that display God is a merciful God to people.

Reason #8 - God made the sun to rule the day because His mercy endures forever. **136:8**

God made that sun on day four of His creation and it has been there ever since.

Reason #9 - God made the moon and the stars to rule the night because His mercy endures forever. **136:9**

There are still ships that navigate direction by the stars God has placed in the sky.

Reason #10 - God smote the Egyptians and their firstborn because of His mercy. **136:10**

God's power struck down Israel's enemies and His mercy was displayed to His people. His mercy was a saving mercy. The Egyptians so hated Israel that they wanted to kill every baby boy. God's mercy struck down the Egyptians.

Reason #11 - God brought Israel as a nation out of Egypt because of His mercy. **136:11**

God delivered His people to freedom because of His mercy.

Reason #12 - God delivered Israel with a strong and outstretched arm because of His mercy. **136:12**

God's power was on the side of His people because He is merciful to them. When God's power is used to help His people, it is a tremendous display of His mercy.

Reason #13 - God parted the Red Sea for Israel because of His mercy. **136:13**

Deuteronomy 7:7 says that God did not choose them and deliver them because they were impressive. In fact, they were the smallest of all the nations.

Reason #14 - God brought Israel through Red Sea because of His mercy. **136:14**

God not only parted the sea, He took His people through the sea.

Reason #15 - God overthrew Pharaoh in the Red Sea because of His mercy. **136:15**

God's mercy is what prompts God to destroy the enemies of His people. If enemies had their way they would destroy God's people.

Reason #16 - God led Israel in the wilderness because of His mercy. **136:16**

God guided, guarded and provided for His people in the wilderness because He is a merciful God.

Reason #17 - God smote great Kings because of His mercy. **136:17**

Reason #18 - God slew mighty Kings because of His mercy. **136:18**

Reason #19 - God slew Sihon the Amorite King because of His mercy. **136:19**

Sihon was mentioned in Psalm 135:11. Sihon would not let Israel pass through land to the Promised Land so God destroyed him and dropped him like a fly.

Reason #20 - God slew Og the king of Bashan because of His mercy. **136:20**

Og was mentioned also in Psalm 135:11. Og was the father of the giants (Deut. 3:11). His bed was 13 ½ feet long and 6 feet wide. He was intimidating and God dropped him.

Reason #21 - God gave land to Israel because of His mercy. **136:21**

God literally took Israel to the exact land in which He wanted her to be.

Reason #22 - God gave an inheritance to Israel because of His mercy. **136:22**

What human deserves an inheritance of God? No one. It is all due to His mercy.

Reason #23 - God thinks about us in our low estate because of His mercy. **136:23**

Now for the first time in the Psalm the writer changes the pronouns to “us” and “our.” So there is a personal application to be made to individuals that is just as true today as it was when the Psalm was written.

God demonstrated His mercy to us in our lowest moment. Ours was a sorry condition. Spiritually speaking, we were in a state of bankruptcy. God remembered us and did not forget about us and in His mercy He delivered us.

Reason #24 - God rescues us from our adversaries because of His mercy. **136:24**

God rescues us from our enemies, just like He did in past times for Israel. No matter how strong the adversary or threat, God is able to rescue His people. His mercy prompts Him to do it.

Reason #25 - God provides food for all flesh because of His mercy. **136:25**

This includes both people and animals. He has sure provided food for us. We don't exactly look like we have missed too many meals. The fact we eat well is due to the mercy of God.

But this is an interesting verse because it implies that God has an ongoing present tense ministry in providing for and even feeding His creation.

God is the one who supplied physical food and spiritual food.

Reason #26 - God in heaven is to be thanked because of His mercy. **136:26**

The Hebrew title for God is one that is only used here. The Hebrew reads "El Hashshamayim" which means He is "the God of heaven."

Now when we analyze the Psalm we conclude He is the only God of heaven and the only supreme Sovereign God.

This supreme God is a merciful God and we are to give thanks to Him forever.