Psalm 136 “His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

**BIG IDEA: God constantly pours out his steadfast love in our lives.**

**PRAY**

**1) INTRO**

• Worship/singing…repetition

 • We repeat to remember…b/c worth remembering

 • Benefits of repetition – on the conscious & unconscious level

 • “Practice makes perfect”…21 days to form habit

• Aristotle – “It is frequent repetition that produces a natural tendency.”

**READ PSALM 136**

**2) “HESED”**

• Repetition here?? 41x…26x

 • “Steadfast love” / “hesed” - “love, kindness, mercy, loyalty…”

• Love & loyalty combined

• Our hesed vs God’s “hesed”

• “Never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love”

• It’s a promise-keeping love…God’s faithful

• Psalm 136 shows God’s continuous involvement in redemptive history, in particular pointing out the exodus & conquest

• As NT people, we see this most clearly in the cross

• Psalm 136 remembers back of God’s faithful/loyal love for his people…reminder to God’s people – past, present, and future – of God’s constant hesed

• His forever hesed…to all God’s people in all time

**3) vv1-3 – goodness, God of gods/Lord of lords**

• Symmetry…call to praise the Lord

• God’s goodness – why we praise God…for his good acts

 • He’s a good God who acts in good ways toward his people

 • God’s enemies know his wrath vs. knowing his mercy/love

• God of gods & Lord of lords

• Not other gods…HBW superlative, Most High God and Lord

• Sovereign over all

 • Nothing ever happens outside of his control/plan

• God’s not remote…he’s personal & good

• Do we pay attention to God’s goodness?

**4) vv4-9 - universe**

• The first of his acts – he’s the Creator of all…and sustainer

• Focus on his work in space…great lights…Gen 1

• Ex Nihilo…he spoke...and created…out of nothing

• God’s work in space has overwhelmed people in all ages

• He created it all

• Telescope

• Moon – 239,000 mi at closest point

 • Mars – 34 million mi at closest point

• Jupiter – 365 million mi

• Saturn – 746 million mi…oval shape

• Antares – red supergiant star, 15th or 16th brightest star, 619.7 light years away

• Light-year is distance light travels in one year, 5.88 trillion mi/9.5 trillion km

 • God created it all…and sustains it/upholds it

 • Mighty and great…and personal

 • Who shows his hesed love to us

• The God who created universe shows continuing commitment/promise-keeping love to his people/children

• The God who sets the planets and stars in place, ordains every event of our day and cares about everything that happens in our day

 • He’s the same God who desires our hearts and time

• Devoted time in Word, prayer, communion w/ HS

• Daily worship of God…ongoing & set-aside times

**5) vv10-16 – out of Egypt, Red Sea, wilderness…slaves to sin**

• Another of God’s acts – the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt

 • Slavery to Egypt…but God rescued

• God provided them with a rescuer/redeemer to save them

• Not complete events, but show a few themes

 • God’s strength

 • He’s the Divine Warrior in Egypt & at the Red Sea

 • God showed his steadfast love by saving his people

 • And leading them in the wilderness

 • The Creator of the universe (vv4-9) is the same God who saves his people (vv10-16)

• In the OT, a strong connection between creation and salvation b/c the OT shows salvation as a new creation

• 2 Cor 5:17 – we are new creatures b/c of JC and his rescuing us from our slavery to sin

• Praise God for his steadfast love in saving and rescuing us, slaves to sin

• People’s conversion stories are exciting

**6) vv17-22 – defeat of enemies, promised land/eternity**

• God’s acts – he’s a mighty warrior who fights on behalf of his people

• Defeating Sihon and Og

• The conquered land became Israel’s inheritance – the Promised Land

• Sihon and Og attacked though Israel promised to pass through their lands peacefully

• Israel’s under the care of the Creator-Redeemer who exercises his power for their sake

 • As God’s people the same is true of us!

• We’re under the care and protection and guidance of our promise-keeping Creator-Redeemer

 • God defeats our enemy – Satan and his servants

 • They don’t have any power over us

• God defeats sin’s power over us when we surrender to him

• Crush shackles & wipe out armies!

• JC did this for us! While we were yet sinners! (Rom 5:8)

• JC came to earth – left his throne in heaven – to come and take our sin on himself, defeat the enemy, and give us HS, & the promise of eternity w/ him forever!

**7) vv23-26 – praise God for his work now**

• When Israel suffered, God’s redemption work continued

• Egypt, in the wilderness, and in the conquest of the land

• God remembers his cov people in their distress

 • God’s actively faithful to his promises

• These final vv emphasize the personal application of God’s salvation to us now too

• God works just as he’s worked in the past to save his people

**8) CONCL**

• God’s “hesed” will NEVER let us go

• In life’s trials & tragedies, we can cry out to our loving Lord in confidence

• God remembers you, God’s shows you his steadfast love

 • And, his greatest act in history to show that was on the cross

• In JC’s saving/redeeming/rescuing/life-give work on the cross