

## LESSONS FROM PSALMS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX

Scripture: Psalms 136:1-26

Ray O. Brooks

### Introduction:

- A. The key word in this Psalm is MERCY. It is found in each of the 26 verses and is set as a response to statements concerning God's characteristics, His creation, His judgments, His deliverances, His redemption and His provisions.
- B. Mercy has been defined as loving kindness. Someone has said, "Mercy assumes need on the part of those receiving it and the ability to meet that need on the part of the one who shows it."
- C. It has been said, "Grace means that God gives us what we do not deserve; and mercy means that God does NOT give us what we do deserve."
- D. It seems that this Psalm was written to drive home one primary truth which is: God's mercy is the reason we are alive and able to be here and why we possess the glorious hope for an eternity in heaven and are not in the depths of despair.

### I. LEARN THAT MERCY HAS BEEN THE GUIDING FORCE BEHIND EVERY ACT OF GOD IN REGARD TO MAN.

- A. vs. 4-9 Why did God set the order of creation as He did? MERCY ...
  - 1. Without mercy either day or night would have been tortuous judgment.
  - 2. It was God's mercy that provided food for all orders of life. v. 25
  - 3. It has been God's mercy that has stayed His destroying judgment against sinful man through all the ages of man's history.
- B. Why did God permit Pharaoh and the Egyptians to continue to mistreat His people so long? Mercy ...
  - 1. God loved the souls of Pharaoh and the Egyptians as much as He loves ours.
  - 2. God gave them time and opportunity to repent and trust.
- C. Why did God finally destroy Pharaoh and the Egyptian army? Why did He smite the cruel kings and their people in Canaan? Mercy.
  - 1. God's mercy slays individuals and eliminates races.
  - 2. God cuts them out of the human race just as a surgeon cuts away cancerous flesh and bone to prevent worse and save the rest.
- D. What caused God to plan and perfect His plan of redemption for His creation? Mercy ...
  - 1. God's mercy, His loving kindness sent Jesus to die for the sin of the world.
  - 2. It is His mercy that convicted us of our sin, waited on us to repent and to call on Him to save.

### II. LEARN THAT GOD EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE A THANKFUL PEOPLE.

- A. Twelve times we are instructed to give thanks. vs. 1-3.
- B. Then in verses 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 16, 17.

### III. LEARN TO WHOM WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE THANKS.

- A. v. 1 The Lord
- B. v. 2 The God of all gods.
- C. v. 3 The Lord of all lords

### IV. LEARN SOME INSPIRED REASONS TO BE THANKFUL.

- A. v.1 Because He is good.
- B. Because His mercy endures forever. Each of the 26 verses sets forth this reason for being thankful.
- C. v. 4 Because He does great wonders.
- D. vs. 5-9 Because of His great creation.
- E. vs. 10-22 Because of all He did in delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage and bringing them into the promised land.
- F. vs. 23, 24 Because He remembered us in our low estate and redeemed us.
- G. v.25 Because He provides our every need.

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### **CONCLUSION:**

For all this we should join the Psalmist in saying, "O give thanks unto the God of heaven for His mercy endures forever."