

TEXTUAL ISSUES PSALM 136

Psalm 136:1-16. *For His love endures forever*. Let us:

1. Give thanks to the Lord God Yahweh for He is good.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
2. Give thanks to the God of gods.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
3. Give thanks to the Lord of lords.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
4. Thanks to He alone who does great wonders.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
5. His understanding made the heavens.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
6. He spread out the earth upon the waters.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
7. He made the great lights—
Keiley alahahm hastou.
8. the sun to govern the day,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
9. the moon & stars to govern the night,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
10. Thanks to He who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
11. and brought us out from among them.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
12. with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
Keiley alahahm hastou.
13. Thanks to He who separated the Sea of Reeds,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
14. and brought us through the midst of it,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
15. and swept Pharaoh's army into the sea;
Keiley alahahm hastou.
16. and led us, His people, through the desert;
Keiley alahahm hastou.

Q To whom are we to give thanks? Why the Lord God Yahweh? How is He good?

Q What is evidence of His greatness from the creation of the heavens, earth, indeed the entirety of Creation?

Q Who struck down the firstborn in Egypt? [Cecil DeMille and tradition]

PSALM 136:1-16

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

4 to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.

5 who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.

6 who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.

7 who made the great lights—
His love endures forever.

8 the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.

9 the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.

10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt
His love endures forever.

11 and brought Israel out from among them
His love endures forever.

12 with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
His love endures forever.

13 to him who divided the Red Sea asunder
His love endures forever.

14 and brought Israel through the midst of it,
His love endures forever.

15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;
His love endures forever.

16 to him who led his people through the desert,
His love endures forever.

- Q What is the difference between a “mighty hand and outstretched arm” and just “a mighty hand” or “just an outstretched arm?”
- Q What is so important about the sea of Reeds being separated for us? [Hint: to die by sword or drowning prevents our redemption in the promised land. Who benefits?]
- Q What is your desert? Will you be led through it? Why do you know that?

KEILEY ALAHAHM HASTOU!

Psalm 136:17-26. *For His love endures forever.* Let us also give thanks to the Lord God Yahweh because He...

17. Struck down great kings,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
18. and killed mighty kings—
Keiley alahahm hastou.
19. such as Sihon, king of the Amorites,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
20. also Og, king of Basham.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
21. He gave their land as an inheritance,
Keiley alahahm hastou.
22. an inheritance to us His servant;
Keiley alahahm hastou.
23. Thanks to the One who remembered us, even
when we were scum
Keiley alahahm hastou.
24. Thanks to the One who remembered us, and
freed us from our enemies
Keiley alahahm hastou.
25. Thanks to the One who feeds every creature.
Keiley alahahm hastou.
26. Give thanks to the God of heaven...

PSALM 136:17-26

- 17 who struck down great kings,
His love endures forever.
- 18 and killed mighty kings—
His love endures forever.
- 19 Sihon king of the Amorites
His love endures forever.
- 20 and Og king of Bashan—
His love endures forever.
- 21 and gave their land as an inheritance,
His love endures forever.
- 22 an inheritance to his servant Israel;
His love endures forever.
- 23 to the One who remembered us in our low estate
His love endures forever.
- 24 and freed us from our enemies,
His love endures forever.
- 25 and who gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

KEILEY ALAHAHM HASTOU!

- Q What great kings have been struck down in your life? Which ones still remain? Why?
- Q What is the inheritance we have received by these kings struck down in your life?
- Q To what extent do we receive the inheritance if we are not His servant? [Hint: consider Galatians 3:29 regarding the inheritance and Luke 17:7-10 regarding our servant status.]¹⁶
- Q When did the Lord God remember you, even when you were in a “low place?”

¹⁶Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” —Luke 17:7-10 (NIV)

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- Q From what enemies has the Lord God freed you?
Q Why is it important that all the creatures be fed?
Q So why are we to give thanks to the “God of heaven?”¹⁷

KEILEY ALAHAHM HASTOU!
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!



¹⁷“*the God of heaven*” A Persian title for God (see Daniel 2:18) found frequently in Ezra, Nehemiah and Daniel. Its intent is similar to that of the language of verses 2-3.