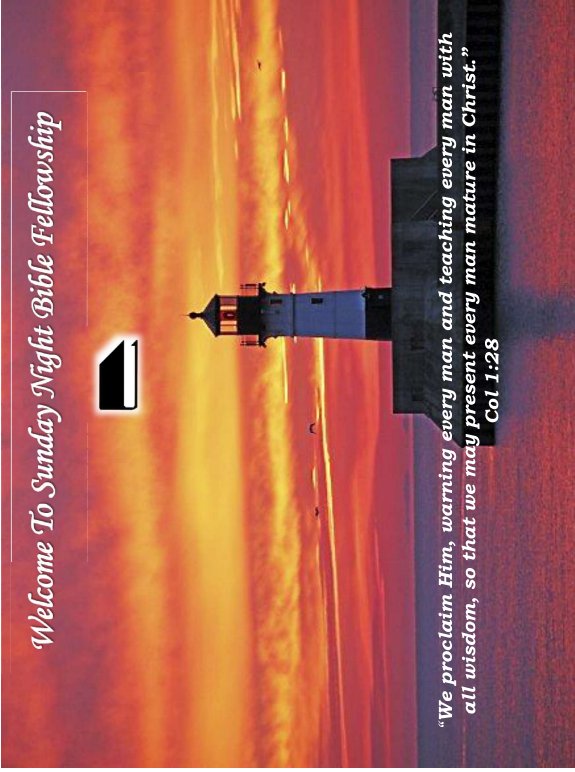




7 categories of the Psalms:

1. Praise and adoration (hymns that glorify the power, character, and majesty of God.) Ps. 131
2. Thanksgiving (express gratitude to God) Ps. 136
3. Royal (exalt the kingship of the Messiah)
4. wisdom (offer practical instruction)
5. Trust (declare confidence in God)
6. Lament (are cries for help. Most common – 1/3)
7. Imprecatory (call for God's judgment, justice and wrath on the wicked)

Ps 136

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 5 To Him who made the heavens with skill, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 6 To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 7 To Him who made the great lights, For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
- 8 The sun to rule by day, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 10 To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 11 And brought Israel out from their midst, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

“Give Thanks”

Psalms 136

Sept. 20, 2026

- 14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 17 To Him who smote great kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 18 And slew mighty kings, For His lovingkindness is everlasting:
- 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 20 And Og, king of Bashan, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His lovingkindness is everlasting,
- 22 Even a heritage to Israel His servant. For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 23 Who remembered us in our low estate, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 24 And has rescued us from our adversaries, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
- 25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

3 sections of this Psalm:

- Orphan Psalm.

Outline:

- I. The Call to Give Thanks. (1-3)
 - II. Reasons for Giving Thanks. (4-25)
 - III. A Final Call to Give Thanks. (26)
- Unique Psalm. 26 verses that repeat the same 2nd line.
 - So you have 26 different 1st lines and 26 same 2nd lines.
 - Priest or soloist would say first line and the congregation would reply back with the 2nd line.

I. The Call to Give Thanks. (1-3)

“give thanks” - יָדָהּ *yadah* (yaw-daw') - to cast forth, to confess, to give thanks.

The Scottish minister Alexander Whyte was known for his uplifting prayers in the pulpit. He always found something for which to be grateful. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy that one church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't think of anything for which to thank the Lord on a wretched day like this." Much to his surprise, however, Whyte began by praying, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this."

MORALITY - He is the ultimate in purity.

***Goodness** - He is the source of all that is good in the universe.

Love	Mercy
Grace	Patience
Kindness	Joy
Peace	Gentleness

***Holiness** - His character is free from all impurity. He is eternally separate and distinct from all impurity (Is. 6:3).

***Righteousness** - His conduct is free from all impurity. (Ezra 9:15)

***Justice** - His judgment is free from all impurity and able to determine reward or punishment based on His holiness and righteousness contained in the Law. (Acts 17:31)

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- The Psalmist extols 2 of God's attributes which tell us why we give thanks to Him.

Attribute #1 – God is good. This is fundamentally and intrinsically who God is. It falls under the Morality of God. . . .

- God is good "for" (because") His mercy (lovingkindness or loyal love) is forever.
- Goodness of God - this is where Satan attacked Adam and Eve in the garden. "If God was a good God, He wouldn't withhold the forbidden fruit.
- **"mercy" - רַחֲמִים checed** (kheh'-sed) - kindness, pity, mercy.
- The word "mercy" is used 276 times in Scripture. The phrase "mercy endureth for ever" is used 41 times in the scripture and 26 of those times is in Psalm 136
- **Note:** It's not just that His mercy is good, but that His mercy has no end.
- We are eternally grateful for that fact because if it ended we would be done!
- Give thanks to God for His goodness because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- The Psalmist extols 2 of God's attributes which tell us why we give thanks to Him.

Attribute #1 – God is good. This is fundamentally and intrinsically who God is. It falls under the Morality of God. . . .

"He is good beyond all others; indeed, he alone is good in the highest sense; he is the source of good, the good of all good, the sustainer of good, the perfecter of good, and the rewarder of good. For this he deserves the constant gratitude of his people."

- Charles Spurgeon

2 Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Attribute #2 – God is sovereign.

- God is over all "gods", and there are plenty of them. Scripture . . .

1 Chron 16:25-26

5 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

He also is to be feared **above all gods**.

26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

Ps 95:3

3 For the Lord is a great God

And a great King **above all gods**,

Ps 96:4

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

He is to be feared **above all gods**.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

Ps 97:9

9 For You are the Lord Most High over all the earth;

You are exalted far **above all gods**.

Ps 135:5

5 For I know that the Lord is great

And that our Lord is **above all gods**.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Attribute #2 – God is sovereign.

- God is over all “gods”, and there are plenty of them.
- There is nothing, and no one higher than God.
- That is what it means to be sovereign.

SOVEREIGNTY - He is the highest ruler in the universe and is the source, the means, and the goal (Rom. 11:36) of all events, actions, decisions, and all else that affects man in his existence. Nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (Isa. 46:11; Ps. 33:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always, and without exception.

- No god will ever stop the predetermined plan and purpose of God. No god will cause God’s love and mercy to fail toward believers.
- Give thanks to God for His sovereign rulership over every idol, because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

“To give thanks to God in the midst of difficult trials, you must submit to His sovereignty. You must acknowledge that He has orchestrated your circumstances for your ultimate good, and submit to Him as good and loving in His dealings with you (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28)”

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- The Lord is also sovereign over all lords.
- We move from the “gods” (idols) of verse 2 to the “lords” of verse 3.
- “**lords**” are the supreme rulers, masters, and authorities here on earth.
- God is sovereign over all kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers, monarchs, emperors, chancellors, magistrates, etc.
- God is the one calling the shots.

Dan 2:21

21 He removes kings and establishes kings;

Prov 21:1

1 The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Rom 13:1

1 For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

- Give thanks to God for His sovereignty over all rulers, because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

4 To Him who alone does great wonders,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting;

II. Reasons for Giving Thanks. (4-25)

1. His Creation. (4-9)

Creation is a “great wonder” done by God alone.

No one else created.

God did it out of nothing.

All of the creating acts of God were done to provide a home for mankind.

Give thanks for His creation because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

Here are the details . . .

5 To Him who made the heavens with skill,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting;

- The Psalmist starts broadly, with the universe – “the heavens.”

Gen 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Heb 11:3

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Ps 19:1

9 The heavens declare the glory of God;

And the firmament shows His handiwork.

- Give thanks for the design, skill, and power to create the unfathomable universe because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

"The earth is situated at just the proper distance from the sun to sustain life. Any closer and we would burn up. Any further away and all plant and animal life would freeze. Also, if the earth were a few miles smaller in diameter, the density of our atmosphere would be greatly reduced. The thinner air would not retain enough heat to sustain life. If the earth were a few miles larger in diameter, the thicker atmosphere would result in too much heat being retained, which would also kill all life."

- Steven Cole

7 To Him who made the great lights,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting:

8 The sun to rule by day,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

9 The moon and stars to rule by night,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- This is the creation of the sun and moon on day 4 of creation.
- Give thanks for the light, heat, energy of the sun, the moon with its gravitational pull which stabilizes the earth, the stars which provide light and navigational information all because of God's forever lovingkindness toward us.

**6 To Him who spread out the earth above the waters,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting;**

- Reference here is to the 3rd day of creation.
- This is the separation of the earth from the seas.
- Thank God for the earth and seas because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

II. Reasons for Giving Thanks. (4-25)

1. His Salvation toward Israel (10-24)

Here are the great historical events of the Bible . . .

Ps 136:10-25

10 To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn,
11 And brought Israel out from their midst,
12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm.
13 To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder
14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it
15 But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea
16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness
17 To Him who smote great kings,
18 And slew mighty kings,
19 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
20 And Og, king of Bashan,
21 And gave their land as a heritage,
22 Even a heritage to Israel His servant,
23 Who remembered us in our low estate,
24 And has rescued us from our adversaries,
25 Who gives food to all flesh,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

"food for all flesh" -

Acts 14:16-17

16 "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;

17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

- We call that common grace. His lovingkindness even extends to the unbeliever.
- Salvation is all of God.
- God brought us out of our bondage of sin.
- God delivered us from darkness.
- God sustains us.
- God brought us up in humility and saved us.
- Give thanks for your great salvation because of His forever lovingkindness toward us.

“If people despair of and doubt the lovingkindness of the Lord, they will not turn from their sin.”

- William Plummer

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

- The Psalmist closes with again a call to give thanks.
- **Note:** God is referred to as the “God of heaven.” Why? There is no one like Him. He dwells not in the heavens but in heaven. No god, no lord, no enemy dwells there.

Application

1. A thankful heart comes from an understanding of the lovingkindness of God.
2. God’s lovingkindness is embedded and anchored in His creative acts and historical facts revealed in His Word.
3. The past, present, and future will not end the lovingkindness of God.
4. God never asks you to give Him thanks without giving you reason for doing so.
5. Our salvation can never be lost because His lovingkindness toward believers is forever.
6. No matter where you’re going this week, His lovingkindness endures forever.
No matter what your problems, His lovingkindness endures forever.
No matter how bad your situation, His lovingkindness endures forever.
One night . . .

“One night in February 358 A.D. the church father Athanasius held an all-night service at his church in Alexandria, Egypt. He had been leading the fight for the eternal sonship and deity of Jesus Christ, knowing that the survival of Christianity depended on it. He had many enemies—for political even more than theological reasons—and they moved the power of the Roman government against him. That night the church was surrounded by soldiers with drawn swords. People were frightened. With calm presence of mind Athanasius announced the singing of Psalm 136. The vast congregation responded, thundering forth twenty-six times, “His love endures forever.” When the soldiers burst through the doors they were staggered by the singing. Athanasius kept his place until the congregation was dispersed. Then he too disappeared in the darkness and found refuge with his friends.

Many citizens of Alexandria were killed that night, but the people of Athanasius’ congregation never forgot that although man is evil, God is good. He is superlatively good, and “his love endures forever.”

— James Boice