

## PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

### **Psalm One Hundred And Thirty-Six - Encouragement That God Will ALWAYS Meet Our OVERALL Needs (Psalm 136:1-26)**

#### **I. Introduction**

- A. Jesus said that the Gentiles are constantly seeking the security of their livelihood needs, Matthew 6:31-32. There exists a continual fear among us humans that our future livelihood provisions might come up short.
- B. Psalm 136:1-26 addresses this **concern** by finding *encouragement* in God's marvelous **track record** of meeting the **overall** needs of His own, and that **continually** for **so very long** (as follows):

#### **II. Encouragement That God Will ALWAYS Meet Our OVERALL Needs, Psalm 136:1-26.**

- A. This psalm repeats the phrase, "because His loyal love (*chesed*) endures forever" in every verse. This repetition gives almost a *monotonous* impression that God's loyal love goes on **endlessly!**
- B. In using this literary device of *monotonous repetition*, and tying it to the very **consistent** and *comprehensive* track record of God's provisions for His people, a great encouragement arises that God will **always** meet the **overall** needs of His people, Psalm 136:1-26:
  - 1. The psalm introduces God with three different divine titles to focus on three different main ways God has provided for the people of Israel down through her history, Ps. 136:1-3:
    - a. Verse 1 addresses God as **Jahweh**, the great "I AM" whereby God revealed Himself to Moses as the One who keeps His covenant with Abraham to deliver Israel from Egypt, cf. Exodus 3:13-15.
    - b. Verse 2 calls God **Elohim**, the name used in Genesis 1 as the Creator and Sustainer of all creatures.
    - c. Verse 3 presents God as **Adonai**, the word for "Master" to picture God's guidance of His people.
  - 2. Through the rest of the psalm, the way God has **always** filled these three roles are presented as follows:
    - a. God was Israel's **timeless** Great Covenant Keeper in delivering her from bondage and opening up Canaan as a possession: (a) God powerfully kept His covenant with Abraham after Israel suffered for four hundred years in Egypt, and delivered her with great miracles from Egyptian bondage, cf. Ps. 136:10-15 in light of Ex. 2:23-25 and Gen. 15:13-16. (b) God then gave Israel victory over the Gentiles who opposed her entering Canaan so that she could possess the land, Ps. 136:17-20, 24.
    - b. God was Israel's **timeless** Great Provider of Livelihood needs: (a) As the Creator, He long ago gave man a home in the universe in which to survive, Ps. 136:4-9. (b) Then, God sustained His people through the wilderness wanderings, Ps. 136:16: this involved ((1)) miraculous provisions of food and water for forty years (see Ex. 16:14-15, 35; 17:1-7; Joshua 5:12), ((2)) the miraculous sustenance of clothing and shoes for forty years of wilderness journeys (Deut. 29:5), ((3)) God's giving Israel *developed* and *furnished* farmlands and houses in Canaan (Ps. 136:21 with Deut. 6:10-12) and ((4)) God's continuing to supply food for Israel once she entered and possessed the land, Ps. 136:25.
    - c. God was Israel's **timeless** Great Leader and Guide through all the times of her uncertainty: Psalm 136:16 simply states that God led His people through the desert. Well, we know that this involved a series of intricate leadership steps: ((1)) Numbers 9:15-16 tells us that God **modified** His daytime cloud to be a pillar of fire by night to provide **illumination** for Israel to **know** God's leadership even in the dead of night! ((2)) Thus, whenever God pulled His daytime cloud **or nighttime** pillar of fire up to move it, Israel would instantly **know** when to move or when to stay put, Numbers 9:17-18, 21. ((3)) God would sometimes keep Israel in a single location for a year or sometimes move them every day, and Israel knew when to stay and when to go by the shifting or settling of the daytime cloud or nighttime pillar, Numbers 9:21-22. **Accordingly, for forty years, Israel knew God's leading every instant of time during that whole four-decade-long journey!**

***Lesson:*** As God's track record of ALWAYS having met Israel's needs as Covenant Keeper, Livelihood Provider or Guide is so PERFECT, and that dating back to CREATION, Israel could praise God and confidently trust that His loyal love would be there NOW, TOMORROW and ALWAYS!

***Application:*** God's track record of PERFECTLY, ALWAYS keeping His promises, providing for our livelihood needs and guiding us every moment or over the long haul shows us He will TIMELESSLY do so NOW, TOMORROW and ALWAYS. Thus, we owe Him thanks, praise and TRUST for doing so!