

A few of
David's Reasons
for being
Thankful!

Psalm 136

INTRODUCTION:

1. America is a wonderful and prosperous country!
 - a. *Richest nation in the world*
 - b. *Richest nation in history!*
2. However, our prosperity has created many Big Problems! -
Materialism, Self-reliance, Arrogance
3. There are MANY Ungrateful and Unthankful people!

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2. However, our prosperity has created many Big Problems! -
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3. There are MANY Ungrateful and Unthankful people!
4. **How about us?!!**
5. We want to study **Psalm 136** and notice 6 simple, common things/thoughts/reminders that prompted David to be thankful!

I. God's People and Thankfulness

A. Definitions:

1. Biblical

- *Primary words used in NT forms of "Eucharistos"*
- *Family of words used ~54x in the NT; other words used ~ 11x*
- *Thayer: to be grateful, feel thankful; mindful of favors*
- *Trench: grateful acknowledgement of past mercies*
- *Danker: thankful... indebtedness; appreciation*

2. Secular

- *Webster's: kindly or grateful thoughts; an expression of gratitude*
- *Am. Heritage: Grateful feelings or thoughts; gratitude*

3. Synonyms & Antonyms

- *Similar: grateful, appreciative, gratitude, pleased, gratified, satisfied*
- *Opposite: ungrateful, unappreciative, dissatisfied*

I. God's People and Thankfulness

B. Old Testament:

1. Commanded & Part of Worship

- *Peace Offering could be for Thanksgiving – Lev 3, 7:11-15*
- *Ps 50:14 – “Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.”*

2. Examples:

- Abraham - Promise of Isaac – *Rom 4:20*
- Moses – Song of Deliverance from Egypt, *Ex. 15*
- Deborah – After defeating the Canaanites *Judges 5*
- Hannah – Birth of Samuel *1 Sam. 2:1-10*
- David – “thanks or praises” ~**175 times in Psalms**; *Ps 100, 107, 136*; Song of Deliverance, *2 Sam 22*, ark retuned to tabernacle *1 Chr 16*
- Daniel – After dream revealed, *Dan. 2:20-23*; Habit in Prayer, *6:10*
- Nehemiah & Israel – Wall of Jerusalem rebuilt, *Nehemiah 12*

I. God's People and Thankfulness

C. New Testament:

1. Commanded

- *Hebrews 13:15* - Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name
- *Philippians 4:6* - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- *Colossians 3:15* - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. *Col 3:17, 4:2*

2. Examples

- JESUS! – His Father's will was done, *Mt 11:25*; Food, *Mk 8:6*; His Father's Attention, *Jn 11:41*
- Paul – NUMEROUS references to his thankfulness! *1 Tim 1:12ff*,

II. Psalm 136 - David's Psalm of Thanksgiving!

A. *Background...*

1. Similar to *Ps 106, Ps 107, Ps 118*
2. Has a very a unique poetic mechanism... “*His mercy endures forever*”

Mercy - goodness, kindness, faithfulness

3. Possibly written by David; *1 Chr. 16:7,34,41* (Ark)
4. Possibly used by Solomon: *2 Chr 7:3-6* (Temple)
5. Psalm enumerates many reasons to thank God

B. *Psalm 136...*

PSALM 136

1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever. 3 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever: 4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever; 5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever; 6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever; 7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever— 8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever; 9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever. 10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever; 11 And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever; 12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever; 13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever; 14 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever; 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever; 16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever; 17 To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever; 18 And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever— 19 Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever; 20 And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever— 21 And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever; 22 A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever. 23 Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever; 24 And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever; 25 Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever. 26 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

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¹ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. ² Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! ³ Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! ⁴ To Him who alone does great wonders, ...; ⁵ To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, ...; ⁶ To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, ...; ⁷ To Him who made great lights, ... ⁸ The sun to rule by day, ...; ⁹ The moon and stars to rule by night, ¹⁰ To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, ...; ¹¹ And brought out Israel from among them, ...; ¹² With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, ...; ¹³ To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, ...; ¹⁴ And made Israel pass through the midst of it, ...; ¹⁵ But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, ...; ¹⁶ To Him who led His people through the wilderness, ...; ¹⁷ To Him who struck down great kings, ...; ¹⁸ And slew famous kings, ... ¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites, ...; ²⁰ And Og king of Bashan, ... ²¹ And gave their land as a heritage, ...; ²² A heritage to Israel His servant, ²³ Who remembered us in our lowly state, ...; ²⁴ And rescued us from our enemies, ...; ²⁵ Who gives food to all flesh, ²⁶ Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

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A. *For Who God Is - Vs 1-3*

“¹ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. ² Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! ³ Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! ...:”

- 1. These thoughts focus on how blessed we are to serve such a wonderful God!*
 - vs 1 - Good*
 - All Verses - Merciful – goodness, kindness, faithfulness!!*
 - Vs. 2-3 - Supreme*
- 2. Think of the horror of serving a Evil & Wicked Lord!*
Callous, brutal & unsympathetic
- 3. We should be so thankful that we serve a wonderful “Father” – Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Pet 1:3, 2 Jn 1:3*

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

B. For the Creation - Vs 4-9

“⁴ To Him who alone does great wonders, ...; ⁵ To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, ...; ⁶ To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, ...; ⁷ To Him who made great lights, ... ⁸ The sun to rule by day, ...; ⁹ The moon and stars to rule by night,”

1. David is thankful for a spectacular creation!

- Vs. 4 - Full of wonder*
- Vs.5 - Full of Wisdom*
- Vs. 6-9 - The majesty and grandeur!*

• Ps 47:2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

B. For the Creation - Vs 4-9

2. *We should be very thankful for this blessing!*

a. The Creation is Evidence!

- *Romans 1:20* - God is clearly seen; no excuses!
- *Psalm 19:1*- “The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

b. The Creation is Refreshing & Gives Hope!

- *Glimpses of Heaven! – Numerous references of nature to describe heaven! Clouds, sun/light, trees, river...*

c. The Creation is our Teacher!

- *Brevity of Life; we are a vapor! - James 4:14*
- *Work like the ant - Prov 6:6*
- *We are worth much! - Matt 6:25-34*

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

C. *For Care of His People - Vs 10-22*

“¹⁰ To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, ...; ¹¹ And brought out Israel from among them, ...; ¹² With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, ...; ¹³ To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, ...; ¹⁴ And made Israel pass through the midst of it, ...; ¹⁵ But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, ...; ¹⁶ To Him who led His people through the wilderness, ...; ¹⁷ To Him who struck down great kings, ...; ¹⁸ And slew famous kings, ... ¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites, ...; ²⁰ And Og king of Bashan, ...²¹ And gave their land as a heritage, ...; ²² A heritage to Israel His servant,”

1. *David realizes God's guidance, support and blessings that He has provided to His people over the years!*

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

C. *For Care of His People - Vs 10-22*

2. *Christians are God's People today*

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

3. *We should be so thankful that God provides, supports and blesses us today!*

Eph 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

2 Tim 3:16-17 – may be complete, thoroughly equipped...

2 Peter 2:3 – All things that pertain to life & godliness

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

D. For His Care of Man - Vs 23

“²³ Who remembered us in our lowly state, ...;”

1. *David was very intrigued by this!*

Psalm 8:4 - What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

Psalm 144:3 - LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?

2. *We need to be so thankful that God loves us so much!*

Rom 5:8-10, John 3:16

Romans 5:8-10

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

III. David's Reasons to be Thankful to God...

E. For His Protection - Vs 24

“²⁴ And rescued us from our enemies, ...;”

- 1. David realized first hand that the Lord protects His followers!*
- 2. We need to be so thankful that God protects us today!*

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 2 Thess 3:3!!

Eph 6:10-20 - Spiritual Weaponry!

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F. For His Provision - Vs 25

“²⁵ Who gives food to all flesh,”

- 1. David knew where all physical blessings came from!*
- 2. We need to be so thankful that God provides for us today!*

***Matt 6:25-34** - ³¹ "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things..*

*Our needs are well met!! **Matthew 25:35-36***

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Many forget that we are to be a very thankful people!*
- 2. David was a good example for us regarding Thanks!*
- 3. Remember to be thankful for:*
 - a. Having a wonderful God!*
 - b. Having a wonderful Creation!*
 - c. God providing & guiding His people!*
 - d. God even considering Man*
 - e. For providing for our Protection*
 - f. For providing for our Physical needs*
- 4. Let's make it a spiritual goal to be more Thankful to God for His Mercy endures forever!*