INTRODUCTION

- This psalm of Thanksgiving is more than just a responsive song or reading where a Levitical song leader led the recital while the Levitical choir or the worshipers responded with the refrain "For His Lovingkindness is Everlasting" 26x. For this psalm specifically highlights many of God's creative and miraculous wonders.

- Richard Dawkins, a renowned atheist, says God, amongst other things, is a "megalomanic" (i.e., an extreme egotist) "who has an obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions." IOWs, everything must be about Him! (source: The God Delusion, 2008)

- Dawkins is correct when he surmised everything is about God. After all, God created everything, we are nothing and have nothing without Him. Yes, the world should revolve around God.

- Dawkins is incorrect when he labeled God as a megalomaniac. God can get along just fine without our praises or gratitude — BUT we need to praise God and to express our gratitude for His many blessings in our lives. Else, we are just selfish & foolish ingrates.

- To more aptly see how the Psalmist structured this psalm, I took the liberty to remove the refrain from each verse, as seen below.

Passage | Comments
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Psalm 136:1-3

1. Give thanks to the LORD (lit. JEHOVAH), for He is good.
2. Give thanks to the God (lit. ELOHIM) of gods.
3. Give thanks to the Lord (lit. ADON or Master) of lords.

- The use of JEHOVAH, ELOHIM, and ADON conveys how God perceives God when we come before Him – He is JEHOVAH, the One and Only God, The Great I AM; He is ELOHIM, the Majestic God; and ADON, the Master of everything. Yes, life is all about GOD, and we need to have an attitude of gratefulness of who He is and what He has done for us.

- How does an ungrateful person, whether they are an adult or a child, become a grateful person? Is it automatic – IOWs, does it come with maturity, or does it take some intentional contemplation? Other means?

Psalm 136:4-9

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

136:10-15

10. To Him who smote Egypt in their firstborn;
11. And brought Israel out from midst;
12. With a strong hand and an outstretched arm.
13. To Him who divided the Red Sea assuered;
14. And made Israel pass through the midst of it;
15. And overthrew Pharaoh & his army in the Red Sea

- Only God can work creative miracles – (Latin, Ex Nihilo – out of nothing)
- The best Satan or man can do is called "Lying Wonders" 2Thes 2:9

Psalm 136:16

16. To Him who formed our mountains and built our hills.

Psalm 136:17-22

17. To Him who smote great kings,
18. And slew mighty kings;
19. Shishon, 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.

- Well, that was back then. What is God doing for His people (& us) today? We can thank God for us to be thankful for as He sustains and even advances us in our battles fighting, not against flesh and blood, but against rulers and powers, against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places? ........ Eph 6:12

Psalm 136:23-26

23. Who remembered us in our low estate,
24. And has rescued us from our adversaries;
25. Who gives food to all flesh,
26. Give thanks to the God of heaven.

- God designed our world to support all life forms He created on this planet for as long as the earth exists........ Genesis 8:22

- There are only a few reasons that would cause famines to occur: 1) War;
- 2) Man’s mismanagement of the earth’s resources [Hosea 4:1-3]; and
- 3) God’s intentional withholding of rain [Deut 11:17; Ezek 5:16]

- Like Habakkuk 3:17-18 states, even if we have no food in the fridge and no money in our bank accounts we should find our joy in God.

- Yet Scripture also states God knows how to give abundance to the righteous during a famine: ................................................Psalm 33:19, 37:19

FOR HIS LOVINGKINDNESS IS EVERLASTING

- Lovingkindness occurs 175x in the OT [NASB]
- The Hebrew word [ron cheched kheh]-sed, Strongs 2617] occurs 248x in the OT, and it also conveys God’s mercy, kindness, goodness, and favor
- The word “lovingkindness” does not occur in the NT, but as its equivalents we have such terms as “mercy,” “goodness,” “kindness,” “brotherly love”
- Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God’s throne; BUT Truth and Lovingkindness also comprise God’s other strong attributes...Ps 89:14

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God does not need our gratitude and thanksgiving, BUT we need to render it to Him out of a grateful heart. WHY? For His Lovingkindness is Everlasting

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 146. This psalm is the first of 5 “Hallelujah Psalms” (146-150). We see that God is, was, and will be faithful to past, present, and future generations, respectively.

As always, let’s bow our heads and give thanks to God, our Creator, who created Henry Ford, who created the car.