

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 June.....	Psalm 1.....	The Path
2) 11 June.....	Psalm 78.....	The Past
3) 18 June.....	Psalm 23.....	The Shepherd
4) 25 June.....	Psalm 138.....	Our Response
5) 02 July.....	Psalm 84.....	His Presence
6) 09 July.....	Psalm 95.....	The Creator
7) 16 July.....	Psalm 19.....	God Revealed
8) 23 July.....	Psalm 136.....	His Love
9) 30 July.....	Psalm 146.....	His Faithfulness
10) 06 Aug.....	Psalm 51.....	The Confession
11) 13 Aug.....	Psalm 32.....	The Cleansing
12) 20 Aug.....	Psalm 141.....	The Protector
13) 27 Aug.....	Psalm 42.....	The Longing

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 “megalomaniac” (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
136:16	16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should the Jews have been thankful for during their 40-year wilderness journey that should have only taken 2 weeks to traverse? • Consider this. 1) Their clothes & sandals did not wear out for 40 years; 2) Their feet and ankles did not swell up during all that marching; 3) They were fed and watered on a daily basis; 4) They were specifically led by an angel of the Lord and by fire at night & smoke during the day; and 5) They were victorious in their God-ordained battles. • What can we be thankful for today in how God is getting us through our wildernesses? What are some of the wildernesses we find ourselves in whether they be God-ordained wildernesses or self-inflicted wildernesses?
136:17-22	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well, that was back then. What is God doing for His people (& us) today that we can 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
136:23-24	23 Who remembered us in our low estate, 24 And has rescued us from our adversaries; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mighty and awesome as God is, He takes a vital interest in each of us on an individual-basis. As my daughter likes to say, God remembers that we are “butt dust” Ps 103:14 [NASB] • How does God rescue us from our adversaries today – From those who gossip about us, malign our character, trash talk us, or even sue us? • How does God: <input type="checkbox"/> Promote us before our enemies? <input type="checkbox"/> Remove our enemies? <input type="checkbox"/> Make our enemies look bad? <input type="checkbox"/> Other means God uses?
136:25-26	25 Who gives food to all flesh. 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 faminePsalm 33:19; 37:19
For His Lovingkindness is Everlasting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lovingkindness occurs 175x in the OT [NASB] • The Hebrew word [טוֹן checed kheh'-sed, Strongs 02617] 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.



Passage	Comments
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of JEHOVAH, ELOHIM, and ADON conveys how we should perceive 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?
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
136:10-15	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 And overthrew Pharaoh & his army in the Red Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides this psalm, 7 other psalms address how God rescued Israel from Egyptian bondagePsalms 78,80,81,105, 106, 114, 135 • We are very forgetful creatures. Peter said he would “not be negligent to put (us) always in remembrance of these things”2Peter 1:12 • Many times, we are challenged to remember His works of old (Psalms 40:5; 77:11; 105:5; 143:5). God is the same Today, Yesterday, and Forever, but we should realize He changes His ways for different generations • E.g., what is God NOT doing today that He did during the Apostolic era?