


YOUR MERCY REACHES UNTO
THE HEAVENS



A silhouette of a person standing in shallow water, facing away from the viewer with arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The person is reflected in the calm water. The background is a vibrant sunset sky with orange, yellow, and blue hues.

"I will praise
You, O Lord,
among the
peoples; I will
sing to You among
the nations.

For Your mercy
reaches unto the
heavens, and
Your truth unto
the clouds"

(Psalm 57:9,10)



When David moved the ark to Jerusalem he sang: “For his mercy endures forever” (1Chr. 16:34 NKJV).

When the ark was placed in Solomon's Temple, the Levites sang: “For his mercy love endures forever” (2Chr. 5:13 NKJV).

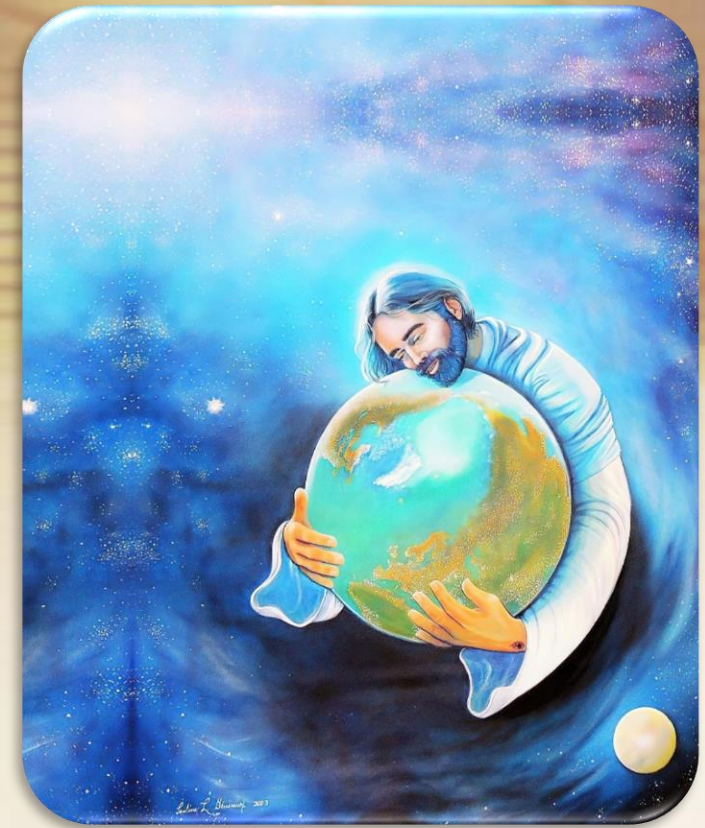
When the divine fire consumed the holocaust, they repeated: “For his mercy endures forever” (2Chr. 7:3 NKJV).

When Jehoshaphat went out to battle, the Levites sang: “For his love endures forever” (2Chr. 20:21 NKJV).

When Zerubbabel laid the foundation of the new Temple, it was sung: “For his mercy love... is eternal” (Ezra 3:11 NKJV).

The same phrase is repeated in Psalms 100, 103, 106, 107, 118, 136 and 138.

Jeremiah prophesied that, when Jerusalem was restored, it would be sung: “For his love endures forever” (Jer. 33:11 NKJV).



What does it mean to me that
God's love is eternal?

What does that love consist of?

What benefits does it bring
me?

How can I respond to that love?



● God's love:

- Love that lasts forever (Psalm 136).
- Love that transforms (Psalm 51).
- Forgiving love (Psalm 130).

● Human response to the love of God:

- Praise and trust (Psalms 113 and 123).
- Blessing and admiration (Psalm 103).

GOD'S LOVE



LOVE THAT LASTS FOREVER

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1 NIV)



Psalm 136 is an antiphonal song. In each of its 26 verses, one part of the chorus praises God and the other part answers with the reason that justifies that praise: "Because his mercy endures forever."

The Hebrew word translated "mercy" can be translated "loving-kindness," "love." What does God do driven by his eternal love?



**He has done marvelous works
creating everything around us
(Ps. 136:1-9)**



**He freed Israel from slavery
and established them in the
Promised Land (Ps. 136:10-22)**



**Currently, He cares for us,
delivers us, and sustains us
(Ps. 136:23-26)**

God's love does not affect only those who love Him, for He "gives food to every living thing" (Ps. 136:25). Contemplating that love, the psalmist begins and ends his hymn by inviting us to praise God (Ps. 136:1, 26).

LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10)

Psalm 51 was written by David "when he came to Bathsheba, Nathan the prophet came to him" (overwritten). Until that moment, remorse gnawed at David's soul. Now he opened his heart before God and confessed his sin without mitigating or justifying it, aware of his inability to stop sinning (Ps. 51:3-5).

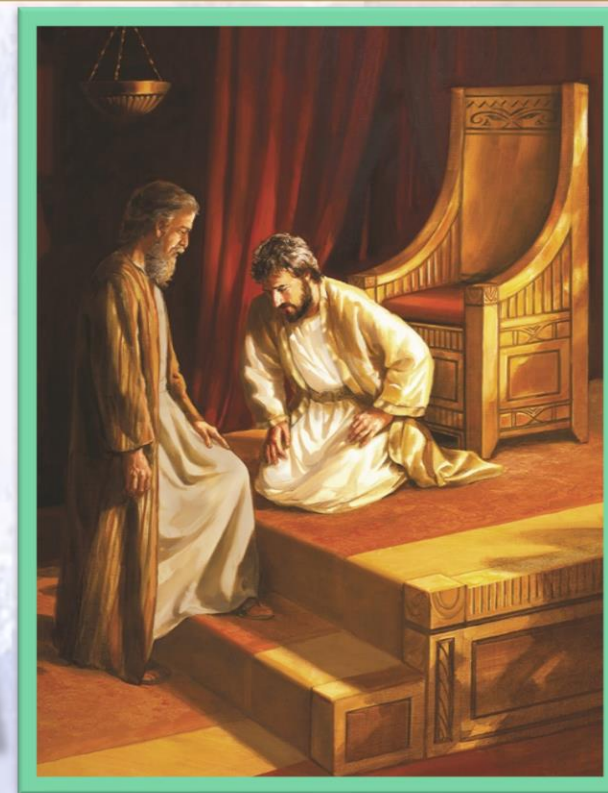


He knew that, out of his great love, God would cleanse his sin and completely blot out his transgression (Ps. 51:1-2, 7-9). But, surprisingly, David goes further. He is not satisfied with forgiveness. If there is no change in our lives, we will continue to be unable to stop sinning. We need a transformation.



God can and wants to do that miracle: create a clean heart and a right spirit in us (Ps. 51:10).

Forgiveness and renewal of our being results in joy, testimony, songs and praise (Ps. 51:12-15). And God delights in receiving our humble praise of love (Ps. 51:16-19).



LOVE THAT FORGIVES

“If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you” (Psalm 130:3-4)

There are two main themes of Psalm 130

The forgiveness

Sin is a deep abyss from which the sinner cries out to God (Ps. 130:1-2). When listening to us, the Lord looks at us and... what does he see?

If He fix her eyes on our sin, we are finished (Ps. 130:3).

But God's loving eyes are fixed on the repentant sinner, and he grants him forgiveness (Ps. 130:4).

The wait

This divine attitude generates hope. Therefore, we confidently wait to receive God's forgiveness.

We especially wait for the glorious morning in which we hear from his lips: “Enter into the joy of your lord” (Mt 25:21; cf. Ps. 130:5-6).

All of God's people participate in this eager wait, when “he will redeem Israel from all their sins” (Ps. 130:7-8).

“We will hide in Jesus Christ. We will trust in His love. We will believe day by day that He loves us with a love that is infinite. Let nothing, nothing discourage you, and make you sad. Think of the goodness of God. Recount His favors and blessings. [...]

May praise to the Lord always be in our hearts, in our minds and on our lips”

HUMAN RESPONSE TO THE LOVE OF GOD





PRAISE AND TRUST



"Praise, the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord" (Psalm 113:1)

What reasons do Psalms 113 and 123 give us to praise and trust in the Lord?

Ps. 113:4

Because it is exalted above heaven and earth

Ps. 113:5-6

Because, although he lives on high, he humbles himself and comes down to our level

Ps. 113:7-8

Because he lifts up the poor and the needy

Ps. 113:9

Because he performs marvelous miracles

Psalm 123

Because he has mercy on us when we are despised

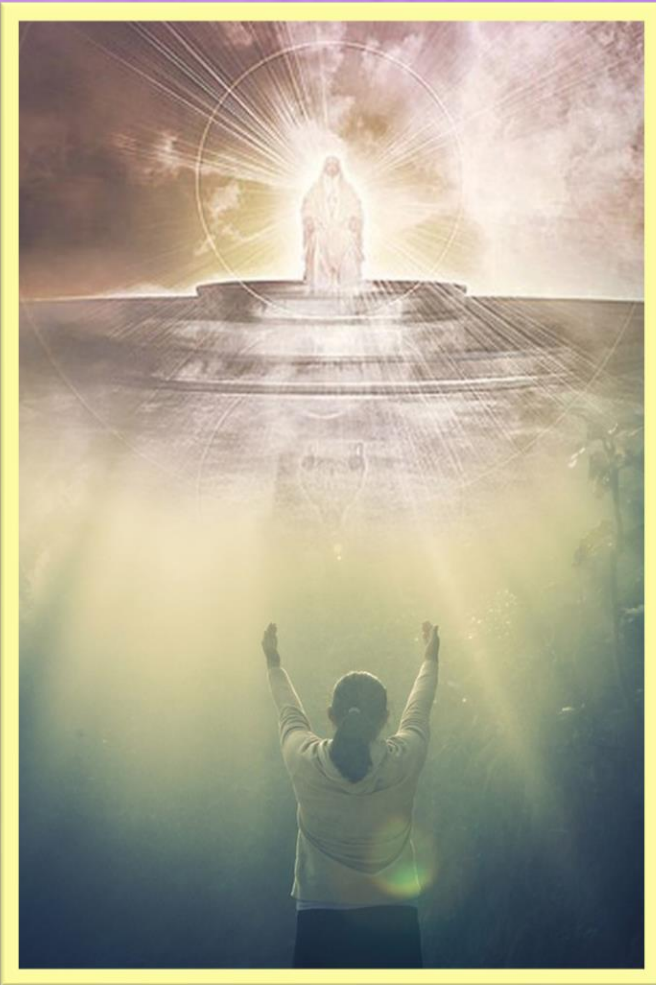


In short, we praise God for his power, for his miracles, for his love, and because he humbles himself, despite his greatness.

On the Cross we can see, together, all these divine attributes. His great love led Jesus to humble himself "unto death" for us (Phil . 2:8). Is this not worthy of praise? Shall we not fully trust in this powerful and loving Savior?

BLESSING AND ADMIRATION

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2)



What benefits does the Lord give us?

Forgive my iniquities (Ps. 103:3a)

Heal my ailments (Ps. 103:3b)

Rescue my life from the pit (Ps. 103:4a)

He crowns me with favors and love (Ps. 103:4b)

He satisfies me with good (Ps. 103:5a)

He rejuvenates me (Ps. 103:5b)

He does justice when I suffer violence (Ps. 103:6)

He makes his plans known to me (Ps. 103:7)

He loves me and will not be angry with me (Ps. 103:8-9)

He does not repay me according to my sin (Ps. 103:10-11)

He does not remember my sins (Ps. 103:12)

He knows that I will soon pass away, and he has mercy on me (Ps. 103:13-18)

In response to these kindnesses, we join the angels in blessing the Lord (Ps. 103:19-22). Praise begins when one recognizes the majesty and works of God and responds in worship to his goodness, mercy, and wisdom.

“You must not sink down discouraged. The fainthearted will be made strong; the desponding will be made to hope. God has a tender care for His people. His ear is open unto their cry. I have no fears for God's cause. He will take care of His own cause. Our duty is to fill our lot and place, live ... humble at the foot of the cross, and live faithful, holy lives before Him. While we do this we shall not be ashamed, but our souls will confide in God with holy boldness. [...]

My heart is fixed, trusting in God. We have a whole Saviour. We can rejoice in His rich fullness. I long to be more devoted to God, more consecrated to Him”

EGW (Reflecting Jesus, December 3)