

**His Loyal Love Endures Forever (Psalm 136)**  
Grace Chapel    October 4, 2009    Dr. John Niemelä

**INTRODUCTION**

**EXPOSITION**

**The antiphonal refrain: For His mercy *endures* forever.**

*Mercy = hesed = love based on covenant loyalty*

***A CALL TO PRAISE (136:1–3)***

**(136:1–3) Give thanks to the LORD, the God over all gods, the Lord over all lords, because His loyal love is forever.**

*What is praise?*

*Leviticus 7*

*Psalm 22*

***CREATION IS A REASON FOR PRAISE (136:4–9)***

**(136:4) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who alone does great wonders, because His loyal love is forever.**

**(136:5) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who [through wisdom] created the heavens, because His loyal love is forever.**

Summary Statement: God created universe (Genesis 1:1)  
This does not refer to original creation, because of the negative circumstantial clause in verse 2.

Negative circumstantial clause: Formless and void (Genesis 1:2)

<b>Formless</b>	<b>Void (unfilled)</b>
Day 1 Light formed (Genesis 1:3–5)	Day 4 Light fills universe (Genesis 1:14–19)
Day 2 Firmament (H <sub>2</sub> O above/below) (Genesis 1:6–8)	Day 5 Fishes/birds fill sea/sky (Genesis 1:20–23)
Day 3 Dry land appears out of sea (Genesis 1:9–13)	Day 6 Animals/people fill dry land (1:24–27; 2:4–25)
Day 7 God Rested (Genesis 2:1–3)	

**(136:6) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who created dry land that are not inundated by the seas, because His loyal love is forever.**

**(136:7–9) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who made the sun (to rule by day), the moon and stars (to rule by night), because His loyal love is forever.**

***THE EXODUS IS A REASON FOR PRAISE (136:10–25)***

**(136:10) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who struck Egypt’s firstborn, because His loyal love is forever.**

**(136:11–12) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who brought Israel out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, because His loyal love is forever.**

**(136:13–15) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who divided the Red Sea & made Israel pass through it, but overthrew Pharaoh & his army, because His loyal love is forever.**

**(136:16–22) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], who struck down great and famous kings, including Sihon of the Amorites and Og of Bashan, giving their land to Israel, His servant, as a heritage, remembering Israel in its lowly state, rescuing Israel from her enemies, and feeding her (in the wilderness), because His loyal love is forever.**

***A RENEWED CALL TO PRAISE (136:26)***

**(136:26) [Give thanks] to [the LORD], because His loyal love is forever.**

**CONCLUSION**