

## “WE GIVE THANKS: GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS”

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### “THE GREAT HALLEL” – PSALM 136, NLT

Hebrew “hallel” = verb for “praise,” where we get the word “hallelujah”

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>2</sup>Give thanks to the God of gods. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>3</sup>Give thanks to the Lord of lords. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>4</sup>Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>5</sup>Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>6</sup>Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>7</sup>Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights—**His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>8</sup>the sun to rule the day, **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>9</sup>and the moon and stars to rule the night. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>10</sup>Give thanks to him who killed the firstborn of Egypt. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>11</sup>He brought Israel out of Egypt. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>12</sup>He acted with a strong hand and powerful arm. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>13</sup>Give thanks to him who parted the Red Sea. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>14</sup>He led Israel safely through, **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>15</sup>but he hurled Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>16</sup>Give thanks to him who led his people through the wilderness. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>17</sup>Give thanks to him who struck down mighty kings. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>18</sup>He killed powerful kings—**His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>19</sup>Sihon king of the Amorites, **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>20</sup>and Og king of Bashan. **His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>21</sup>God gave the land of these kings as an inheritance—**His faithful love endures forever.** <sup>22</sup>a special possession to his servant Israel. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>23</sup>He remembered us in our weakness. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>24</sup>He saved us from our enemies. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>25</sup>He gives food to every living thing. **His faithful love endures forever.**

<sup>26</sup>Give thanks to the God of heaven. **His faithful love endures forever.**

### 1. God’s love is \_\_\_\_\_ = a “faithful love”

“Faithful love” = Hebrew “hesed” = the dominant term used to describe the love or faithfulness of God

“Hesed” is God’s covenantal commitment to stand by His people and, in the end, to vindicate them and set all things right”

God’s “Hesed” is embodied in Jesus Christ; the cross is the one objective, absolute, irrefutable proof of God’s love for us

*“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”* HEBREWS 10:23

*“For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken,” says the Lord, who has mercy on you.”* ISAIAH 54:10

### 2. God’s love is \_\_\_\_\_ = an “enduring love”

God’s “faithful love” is not primarily an affirmation about how God feels about us in any emotive or sentimental sense; it is a declaration of his steadfast faithfulness to the covenant

There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more than He already does; it is not dependent on our response

*“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”* DEUTERONOMY 31:6

### 3. God’s love is \_\_\_\_\_ = an “eternal love”

The love of God is a constant forever; the refrain is a powerful, steady reminder of God’s covenant love in and through the whole of life that demands a response

*“I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* ROMANS 8:38-39