

## PRAYING PSALM 136

“For His mercy endures forever” (Psalm 136:1).

This psalm is similar to the previous one. Worship in Israel was often antiphonal. Priests sang the first line of each verse, and the congregation sang the refrain. Four names for God are mentioned here: LORD, God of gods, LORD of Lords, God of Heaven. 1. A CALL TO THANKSGIVING (1-3). To Yahweh (Lord). To Elohim (God of gods). To Adonai (LORD of Lords). 2. THE GOD TO BE THANKED (4-25). The God of creation (4-9). The God of deliverance (10-24). 3. THE GOD OF MERCY (25).

We should thank God for his mercy more than anything. Mercy is God’s crowning attribute. Mercy is a willingness to give another chance to the failed and fallen. Mercy in us is the disposition of God to forgive “seventy times seventy;” i.e., 490 times. When you show mercy you are being like God. You are never more like God than when you forgive. Is there someone you need to give another chance? Allow the Spirit in you to lead you in forgiving that one person you don’t want to think about. You know, the one you don’t want to forgive. Begin by thanking God for His complete forgiveness of your own sin. Are you any more deserving of forgiveness than the person you are refusing to forgive?