

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD IS MY HOPE.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24



LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24

- The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

LAMENTATIONS: BACKGROUND

- Author : Jeremiah the prophet
- Dated: 586 BC, coincided with the fall of Jerusalem to Babylonians



HORRORS OF DESTRUCTION

- Devastation and slaughter of kings, princes, elders, priests, prophets and commoners alike.
- Severe famine.
- Worship of God ended.

The Lord punished Judah (and Israel) because of theirs sins.

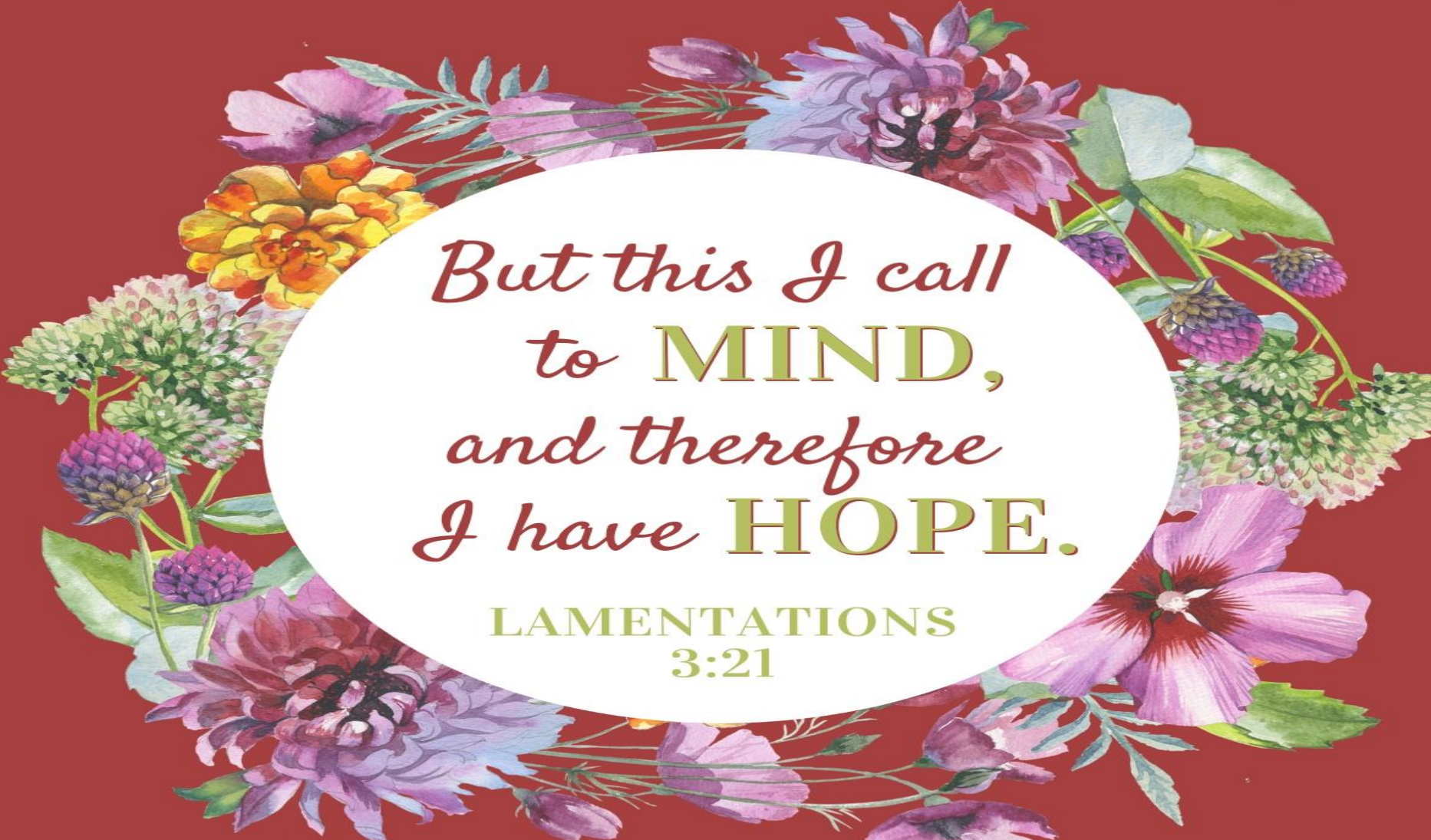
A PERSONAL LAMENT

- Chapter 3. A 'passionate expression of grief and sorrow' that the author experienced in the context of a national disaster.
- I am the man who has seen affliction
under the rod of his wrath; **PUNISHMENT**
² he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light; **HOPELESSNESS**
³ surely against me he turns his hand
again and again the whole day long.
UNRELENTING

EMOTIONAL STATE

- deprived of peace, prosperity and splendour (v17-18)
- my soul is downcast from my afflictions (v 19-20)
- shut out my prayer (v8)

LAMENTATIONS 3:21



*But this I call
to **MIND**,
and therefore
I have **HOPE**.*

LAMENTATIONS
3:21

TURNING POINT

- Call to mind' or **to remember** :
 - deliverance from Egypt
or from exile in Babylon.



JEREMIAH 29:10

- “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.”

REMINDED :

- The **steadfast love** of the LORD never ceases;
his **mercies** never come to an end;
²³ they are **new every morning**;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ “The LORD is my **portion,**” says my soul,
“therefore I will **hope in him.**”

STEADFAST LOVE

CHESED

- nature or attribute of God
- ‘Never ceases/never end’ :
 unbreakable devotion to covenant
- relationship with Israel - His chosen people
- revelation to Moses at Mt Sinai

(Exodus 34:6)

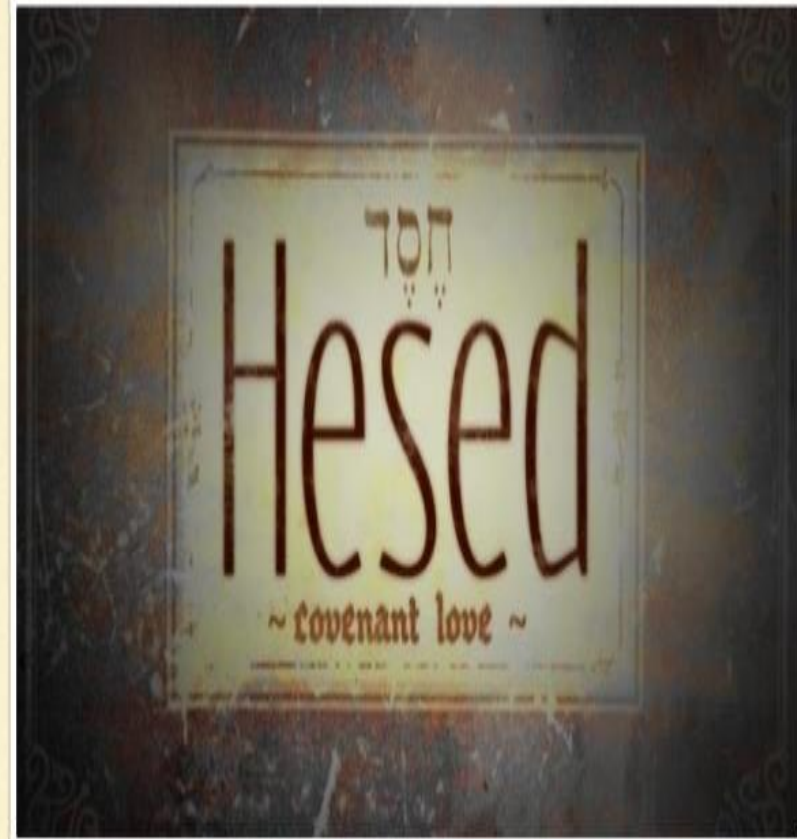


GOD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS
SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN
STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS

EXODUS 34:6

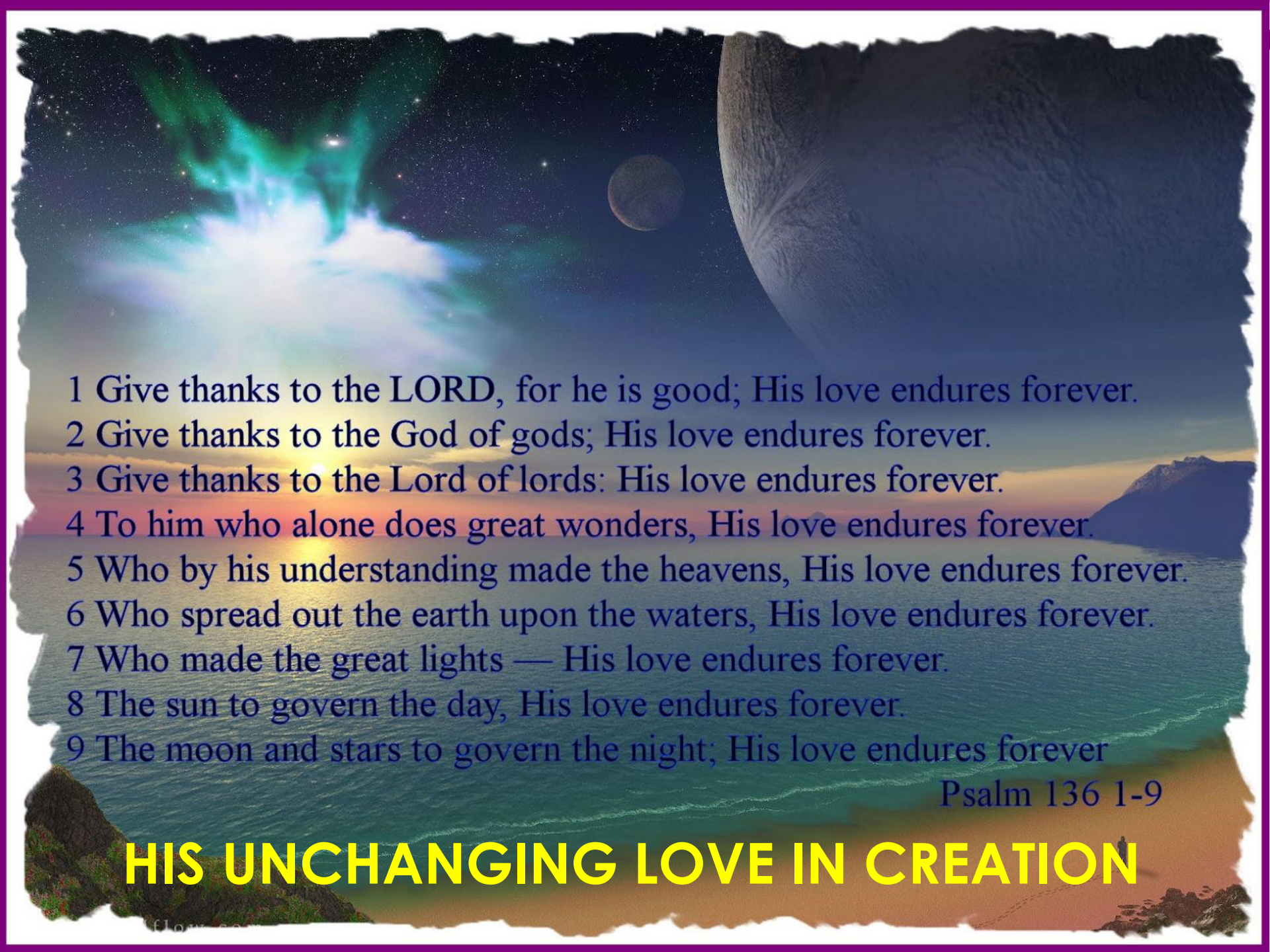
**GIVE THANKS TO THE
LORD , FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.**

PSALMS 136:1 ESV



HIS LOVE: PSALM 136:1-5, 10-15, 23-26

God's unchanging loves gives us reason to celebrate.

- 
- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever.
 - 2 Give thanks to the God of gods; His love endures forever.
 - 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.
 - 4 To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.
 - 5 Who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.
 - 6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.
 - 7 Who made the great lights — His love endures forever.
 - 8 The sun to govern the day, His love endures forever.
 - 9 The moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever

Psalm 136 1-9

HIS UNCHANGING LOVE IN CREATION

MERCY

Hebrew - *racham*

- Derived from Hebrew word meaning: to love, to love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection, and have compassion.
- Translated
 - *Mercy* 30 times
 - *Compassion* 4 times
 - ***Womb*** 4 times



MERCY

- Mercy – to show acts of **compassion**
(CHESED lead to MERCY)
- ‘New every morning’ – actively showing compassion towards us every day.

MERCY

- 'womb' – place of warmth, protection, supply/nutrition.



STEADFAST LOVE: UNCEASING / UNCHANGING

- There is complete devotion to those whom He love.
- actively show compassion towards them every day.
- Romans 8:28 – based on this unchanging steadfast love (Chesed)

HIS LOVE AND COMPASSION

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28



"What, then, shall we say
in response to this?"

**IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO
CAN BE AGAINST US?**

He who did not spare His own Son,
but gave Him up for us all -

**HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO,
ALONG WITH HIM, GRACIOUSLY
GIVE US ALL THINGS?"**

Romans 8:31-32

bibleinspirations.org

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

- The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

Great :

- God will and can deliver in every situation no matter how grim it appears.
- God raised the Persian king to conquer Babylon and initiate the return of His people.

Faithfulness:

- His word and promises are reliable.



I am your
portion
and your
inheritance
among the
children
of Israel.

Numbers 18:20

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THE LORD IS MY PORTION/(HELEQ)

And the LORD said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.

NUMBERS 18:20



I am your
portion
and your
inheritance
among the
children
of Israel.

Numbers 18:20

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THE LORD IS MY PORTION/(HELEQ)

**INHERITANCE:
PORTION OF TEMPLE
OFFERINGS AND
EVERYTHING DEVOTED
TO THE LORD 18:8,13**

GOD IS MY PORTION (HELEQ)

As Children of
God, we have a
better portion
from our Father
John 1: 12.

We **have every**
spiritual blessing –
salvation
guarantee.
Ephesians 1: 3-14



**I am your
portion
and your
inheritance
among the
children
of Israel.**

Numbers 18:20

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I HAVE HOPE IN HIM:

- of the steadfast love and mercy of God (v22,23)
- the LORD is my portion (v24)

HE WILL NOT PUNISH FOREVER

#1XEvangelism

f /1XEvangelism

**For the Lord will not cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief, he will
have compassion according to the
abundance of his steadfast love;**

Lamentations 3:31-32 (ESV)

In a surge of anger I hid my face
from you for a moment, but with
everlasting kindness I will have
compassion on you, says the LORD
your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:8

HE UPHOLDS JUSTICE

- To crush underfoot
all the prisoners of the earth,
³⁵ to deny a man justice
in the presence of the Most
High,
³⁶ to subvert a man in his lawsuit,
the Lord does not approve.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER BOTH GOOD AND BAD.

- Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?
³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that **good and bad** come?

WAIT AND HOPE IN THE LORD

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord .

Lamentations 3:25-26



APPLICATION

ARE WE TROUBLED?

- By Fear - future
- Loss of Hope /despaired –current struggles
- Question God's sovereignty (over natural disasters, wars, epidemics, cancers)



*But this I call
to **MIND**,
and therefore
I have **HOPE**.*

LAMENTATIONS
3:21

HE IS CHESED



GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:8

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**HIS LOVE IS STEADFAST
AND HE IS MERCIFUL.**

GAVE HIS ONLY SON



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION

- on the lost, Matt 9:36

When he saw the crowds,
he had compassion on them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36



JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION

- on the lost, Matt 9:36
- On the sick, Matt 14:14



Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with *compassion* toward them, and he *healed* their sick.

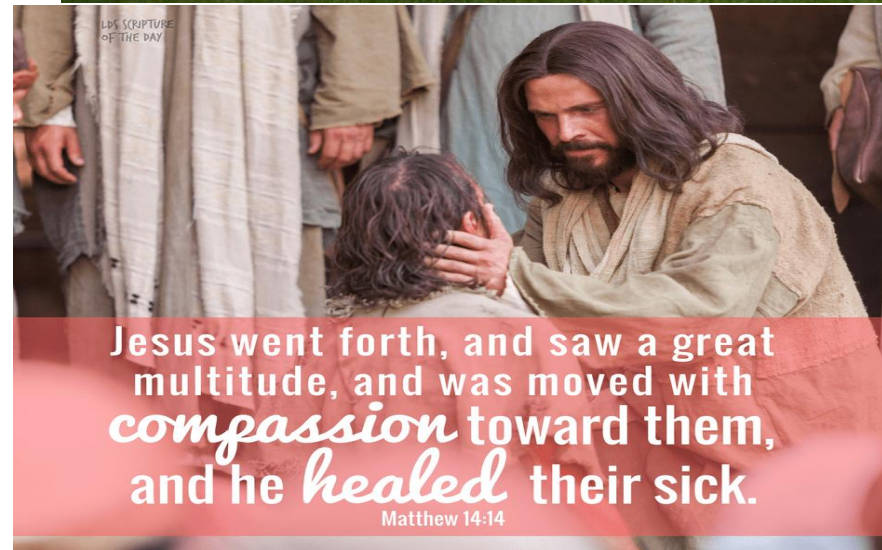
Matthew 14:14

JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION

- on the lost, Matt 9:36
- On the sick, Matt 14:14
- On physical hunger

Matt 14:16-21

When he saw the crowds,
he had compassion on them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.
Matthew 9:36



Jesus went forth, and saw a great
multitude, and was moved with
compassion toward them,
and he *healed* their sick.

Matthew 14:14

HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD

And may you
have the power
to understand,
as all God's
people should,
how wide,
how long,
how high,
and how deep
His love is.

Ephesians 3:18 NLT





GOD'S LOVE IS TOTAL

- Wide- covers the breadth of our own experience
- Long- spans the length of our lives
- High-rises to the heights of our celebrations
- Deep- reaches to the depths of our discouragement and despair

Hesed Defined

Hesed is the active force of God whereby he actively seeks to come to the aid of those with whom He has established a relationship. He displays His strength in showing mercy and loving kindness in a steadfast way. His love and mercy never fail because it is impossible for God to be weakened to the point of failure. (Unfailing Love)

A man with glasses and a blue quilted jacket is sitting on a beach, looking out at the ocean during sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water. The sky is a mix of orange and blue. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

THE LORD IS GOOD TO:

*The LORD is good to
those whose hope is
in him, to the one
who seeks him...*

- Lamentations 3:25 -

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- However dark the night,
 - however deep the fear,
 - however hopeless the situation,

**We can rely on the steadfast love
and mercy of God.**