

God with Us Brings Love

Day 12 LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

Eternity blows our minds. The concept of forever defies the constraints of our physical world. We have no tangible equivalent to infinity in our finite surroundings. No beginning. No end. No way to fully grasp the immensity. Our concept of time is almost laughable. A grandparent lives to 100 - nearly one penny's worth of a millennium. The United States, which seems so permanent in our thinking, is 242 years old - not even a fifth the duration of the Roman Empire, which lasted about 1,480 years. The oldest living organisms on earth are trees, and the most ancient single documented tree is a Great Basin bristlecone pine in California believed to be 5,067 years old. All of those time frames are not even equivalent to a water molecule in the ocean. And the entire ocean is not equivalent to a molecule of eternity.

God's love, however, is eternal. It's as never ending as God himself. It was. It is now. It will be. That was the point the Psalmist wanted to make in Psalm 136: His love endures forever. The chorus appears 26 times in 26 verses, repeated each time after a list of ways He has shown and continues to show His faithfulness. And He will never stop demonstrating His love in tangible ways that are both daily occurrences and history changing events like the birth of Christ. All things we know will come to an end at some point: the good, the bad, and life itself. But as Andrew Peterson sings in "After the Last Tear Falls": "And in the end, the end is oceans and oceans of love and love again." Then we will find that all our tears have been caught in the hand of the Giver of Love. This is the love that God with Us lived out before us, and He will hold us forever and ever and ever.

What is the longest, oldest concept of time you can imagine? What symbol can you think of and look at to remind yourself in this season that Christ's love is never ending?