

Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the Lord.
For He is good ...

v. 7 To Him who made the great lights ...

v. 8 The sun to rule by day ...

v. 9 The moon and stars to rule by night, for
His lovingkindness [**חֶסֶד** (*cheseth*): **unfailing love**]
is everlasting. (NASB)

50. The translation, “unfailing love,” of the Hebrew noun *cheseth* comes from research done by R. B. Thieme, Jr.:

For centuries scholars have debated over the precise definition of *chesed*, but my long study of its etymology has given me a clear understanding of the meaning of this word. The best translation of *chesed* is not “goodness” or “lovingkindness” as in the New American Standard and King James versions, but “unfailing love.”⁶

51. Reverend Thieme amplifies his conclusion by associating God’s love with His other divine attributes. This survey is presented in the reference cited in footnote 6 below. Consult pages 6–11.

52. The following verses contain the Hebrew noun, **חֶסֶד** (*cheseth*). Regardless of the English translations, the correct translation is “unfailing love” in Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Kings 8:23; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 57:10; 86:15; and 136:1–26.

53. Likewise, in the New Testament, the following verses contain the Greek phrase, **τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ θεοῦ** (*tēn agápēn tou theou*): “the love of God,” but better translated, “the unfailing love of God,” in Luke 11:42; Romans 5:5; 8:39; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 John 4:9; and 5:3.

54. The divine attribute of God’s love is evident in the creation of the universe in:

Psalm 136:5 To Him Who made the heavens [**First and Second**] with skill, for His unfailing love is everlasting. (CTL)

⁶ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Unfailing Love of God*, ed. Robert B. Thieme III (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2009), 9.

55. The love of God is replete throughout Scripture and it is evident in James's comments in James 1:17 with regard to the creation of the "lights" in the sky.
56. Since God is the "Father of lights," then James goes on to report, "with Whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."
57. As the various heavenly bodies are constantly in motion, there are periodic variations in their brightness such as eclipses of the sun and moon and the phases of the moon; shadows are created by objects that partially block out the light from each.
58. Although the mechanics of orbital motions do from time to time alter the brilliance of these heavenly bodies, the verse informs us that their Creator does not vary nor does He engage in shifting shadows. This is because of His immutability.
59. Principle: If the creation of the universe and all that is in it is from the "Father of lights," then it may be stated that every gift from the "Father of lights" is perfect and, unlike the luminaries of the universe, there is never a variation in the form of shadows.
60. The gifts emphasized are those associated with **(1)** salvation: Jesus Christ is characterized as "His unspeakable gift" in 2 Corinthians 9:15, **(2)** the mechanics that provide spiritual growth: the filling of the Holy Spirit, His teaching ministry, and His recall ministry in 1 Corinthians 2:9-14, and **(3)** the option to apply the doctrine you know to life and circumstances in Romans 12:2.
61. So far we have the following expanded translation of:
James 1:17a Every good-of-intrinsic-value act of giving and every completed gift keep on being from above, coming down from the ultimate source of the Father of lights ... (EXT)
62. Everything you possess, from the smallest, seemingly insignificant concept to things considered of great significance in your life, they all come down to you from the ultimate source of the Father of lights.

63. So, get this point: The universe, in which you are an infinitesimal part, was designed for you. All of the luminaries that sparkle, glow, and glare were created for you by the Father of these lights.
64. The entirety of the universe, according to the self-appointed luminaries of astronomy, is spread over millions of lightyears, all of which were created for you.
65. James 1:17 is designed to convince you that everything in your life is a gift of intrinsic value.
66. With this concept in mind, we will now elaborate and illustrate.

Good of Intrinsic Value Assets

1. There is an important phrase in verse 17 that gives us the key to understanding James' illustration. The verse begins with the principle, "Every good-of-intrinsic-value act of giving and every completed gift keep on being from above."
2. The location, "above," is the third heaven. These gifts are described as "coming down from the ultimate source of the Father of lights."
3. This last phrase looks like this in the Greek: **ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς τῶν φῶτων (apó tou patrós tōn phōtōs)**: "from the Father of the lights." The preposition *apó*, "from," indicates the principle of "ultimate source."
4. No matter the assets, blessings, advantages, benefits, or discipline, correction, punishments that occur in your life, they come down to you from the "Father of the lights."
5. If God created the universe and if He created man to occupy it, then He also provided all the assets necessary to sustain him, bless him, reward him, and protect him.
6. These gifts of intrinsic value are all-encompassing and are provided from the ultimate source of Himself. To orient the believer to the grace policy of God, James indicates that, "Every good-of-intrinsic-value act of giving and every completed gift keep on being from above."

7. To amplify this grace concept, let's mention a number of things that illustrate God as the ultimate source of everything we possess under His policy of grace.
8. Some of these things are direct while others are indirect. Yet, all things find their ultimate source is from God and are administered under His policy of grace.
9. This means there is nothing you can do to bribe God to give you anything. All that you have is from the ultimate source of God.
10. When you placed your personal faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you received countless assets that were delivered through the grace pipeline down to your imputed righteousness.
11. You did not earn them, you did not deserve them, and you do not maintain them. They are yours by divine decree. Included is the fact that you are a member of the royal family of God.
12. A royal family is the family of a king. Jesus Christ is divine royalty as the second Person of the Trinity with the royal title, "Son of God" (John 11:27).
13. Secondly, because of His true humanity He became Jewish royalty. His chart pedigree descends from the House of King David, therefore He holds the title, "Son of David" (Matthew 21:9).
14. Royal descent to Joseph is derived from the line of Solomon while royal descent to Mary proceeds from the line of Nathan.
15. The Lord's victory in His earthly ministry is confirmed by His victory on the cross while functioning in the prototype divine power system. This resulted in the royal title, "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:12).
16. His battlefield victory made it possible to accumulate a third category of individuals who, indwelt at salvation by Jesus, became members of the Lord's royal family during the Church Age and beyond.
17. Those who believe in Jesus become members of His royal family due to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Believers have equal privileges associated with royal family status.

18. The system under which this royal family functions is the divine power system and utilization of the ten problem-solving devices. When spiritual growth enlarges each category the believer's soul, it is fortified with the artillery of thought.
19. The underlying policy of God toward the royal family is grace and is sustained by the unfailing love of God. During the course of one's earthly life, the love of God provides every logistical asset while blessing those who advance:

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us. (NASB)

20. Now let's illustrate how "far more abundantly beyond all that we ask of think" the gifts of God are in our lives. To do so we borrow from the lives of British royalty.
21. Two television series of last year presented the coronation of two of England's queens, *Victoria* on Amazon and Elizabeth II's *The Crown* on Netflix. Each was removed from the life of a young lady when suddenly elevated to the title, Queen of England.
22. Victoria was only four weeks past her eighteenth birthday when she ascended to the throne on June 20, 1837; Elizabeth II was only six weeks short of her twenty-sixth birthday when she did so on February 6, 1952.
23. In each drama, these two women had to learn the rules of royal deportment on the fly and each series spent time documenting the learning of this process. In each case, these women's husbands also had to learn the do's and don'ts of how to honor their wives' royal status.
24. When boys are to the royal manner born, they are educated from childhood how to present themselves in well-mannered society.
25. They do not earn or deserve any of their privileges. They are born to privilege by membership in the royal family.

(End JAS1-34. See JAS1-35 for continuation of study at p. 341.)