# Psalms 104

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 104 - and as we make our way to the 104th Psalm…

…I should take a moment to point out that the author of this Psalm remained anonymous in the Hebrew version of the Bible.

At the same time - the Septuagint - the Latin Vulgate - the Ethiopic - Arabic - and Syriac versions of the Bible…

…each attribute this Psalm to King David.

As we consider the contents of this Psalm - we'll soon discover that this song of praise is a poet's version of the creation account.

Here's how theologian Albert Barnes explained it - in his commentary of this Psalm…

The psalm was probably founded on the record of the creation in Genesis 1; with a design to show that the order of the creation, as there described, "was adapted to the purposes which were intended, and was carried out in the providential arrangements now existing on the earth;" or, that, taking the order of the creation as described there, the existing state of things furnished an illustration of the wisdom and benevolence of that order.

In other words - the Psalmist wrote this Psalm - according to the creation account found in Genesis 1…

…so that those who sing this song of praise might glorify the benevolent God Who created all things.

I like the way that Spurgeon described it - in his commentary of this Psalm - here's how he put it…

The psalm gives an interpretation to the many voices of nature, and sings sweetly both of creation and providence. The poem contains a complete cosmos sea and land, cloud and sunlight, plant and animal, light and darkness, life and death, are all proved to be expressive of the presence of the Lord. Traces of the six days of creation are very evident, and though the creation of man, which was the crowning work of the sixth day, is not mentioned, this is accounted for from the fact that man is himself the singer.

Spurgeon was correct to compare the contents of this Psalm to the creation account found in Genesis chapter 1.

And as we consider this Psalm in light of the creation account…

…it's my hope that we might follow in the footsteps of the Psalmist…

…by becoming those believers who sing the praises of our Creator.

With this as our goal - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 104th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where we read…

Psa 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
Psa 104:2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment,
Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - blessing the name of the Lord.

And the first reason that he gave for blessing the name of the Lord was based on the fact that - God is very great.

In other words - the LORD is the extremely powerful creator - Who is clothed with majestic light.

And this reminds me of the way that the Lord created light on the first day of creation.

In order to further grasp the great power of our glorious God - let's consider what the psalmist wrote - there in verse 2…

…where he described the LORD - as the One Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

Now - as we consider this claim - it might interest you to know that it wasn't until the 1920's…

…when scientists discovered and demonstrated that our Universe is expanding.

And yet - it was nearly 3000 years before this - when the Psalmist described this very thing.

The prophet Isaiah also presented us with the same statement - in Isaiah chapter 40 - it's verse 22 - where he declared…

Isa 40:22 It is He who sits above the sphere of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in

Here in this verse - we find the Prophet Isaiah - describing the expansion of the universe.

And as we consider the way that the Lord is stretching out the heavens like a curtain…

…we'll do well to sing the praises of the One Who has the infinite power necessary for this very thing.

We should also consider how the psalmist described the way that our Creator created the waters and the wind.

Let's pick up our study of the 104th Psalm - beginning at verse 3 - where we learn that…

Psa 104:3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters,
Who makes the clouds His chariot,
Who walks on the wings of the wind,
Psa 104:4 Who makes His angels spirits,
His ministers a flame of fire.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - describing the way that the Lord created waters - clouds and wind.

This points us to the second day of Creation - when the Lord created a firmament in the midst of the waters.

And it was at that point in time when He divided the waters which were under the firmament…

…from the waters which were above the firmament.

We also find the Psalmist - describing the angels that he created - as spirits - and flames of fire.

Now - we aren't told when the Lord created the angelic hosts of Heaven.

And while the Psalmist seems to suggest that the angels were created on the second day of creation…

…it wouldn't be wise to use the lyrics of this song - as the doctrinal foundation…

…for answering the question: "when did God create the angels?"

At the same time - we should take a moment to consider how Paul used verse 4 - as a basis for believing in the deity of Jesus.

It's in Hebrews chapter 1 - beginning at verse 5 - where Paul asked…

Heb 1:5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:
"You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?
And again: "I will be to Him a Father,
And He shall be to Me a Son"?
Heb 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:
"Let all the angels of God worship Him."
Heb 1:7 And of the angels He says:
"Who makes His angels spirits
And His ministers a flame of fire."
Heb 1:8 But to the Son He says:
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Paul actually used three different Psalms - as the basis for his argument that Jesus is not an angel.

This includes the 4th verse of the 104th Psalm - which Paul used to assure his Hebrew audience…

…that Jesus isn't an angelic being - or ministering spirit…

…no - instead - He is the incarnate Son - Who is God forever.

I should also remind you that the deity of Jesus was there with God the Father and the Holy Spirit - at the time of Creation.

Paul assured us of this fact - in Colossians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 15 - where we learn that…

Col 1:15 (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

From this - we can see that the deity of Jesus was actively creating all things…

…during the six days when our Creator created everything.

With this in mind - let's continue to consider the way that the psalmist celebrated the almighty power of our Creator.

Let's pick up our study of the 104th Psalm - beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared…

Psa 104:5 You who laid the foundations of the earth,
So that it should not be moved forever,
Psa 104:6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters stood above the mountains.
Psa 104:7 At Your rebuke they fled;
At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.
Psa 104:8 They went up over the mountains;
They went down into the valleys,
To the place which You founded for them.
Psa 104:9 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over,
That they may not return to cover the earth.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - describing the third day of creation…

…when God separated the waters on the earth - from the dry land.

In this way - the Lord established the boundaries of the oceans according to His perfect plan.

We also find the Psalmist describing the foundations of the earth.

And while there are some who believe that the Earth is flat - and resting upon a foundation of pillars…

…it's in Job chapter 26 - verse 7 - where Job assured us that

Job 26:7 (God) stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

That being the case - the foundations of the Earth is actually a reference to the bedrock…

…upon which the mountains - or - pillars of the Earth are established.

We should also consider how the Lord created the hydrologic cycle - in order to fill the streams - and the springs with drinkable water.

Look with me again - there at the 104th Psalm - beginning there at verse 10 - where we learn that…

Psa 104:10 He sends the springs into the valleys;
They flow among the hills.
Psa 104:11 They give drink to every beast of the field;
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Psa 104:12 By them the birds of the heavens have their home;
They sing among the branches.
Psa 104:13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the hydrological cycle…

…which involves the continuous circulation of water in the Earth-Atmosphere system.

This cycle included the evaporation - and precipitation of water from the ground to the atmosphere and back again.

And this is the system that God created - so that the streams and springs provide drinkable water…

…for the critters that He created.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 104th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 14 - where we learn that…

Psa 104:14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the service of man,
That he may bring forth food from the earth,
Psa 104:15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man,
Oil to make his face shine,
And bread which strengthens man's heart.
Psa 104:16 The trees of the LORD are full of sap,
The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Psa 104:17 Where the birds make their nests;
The stork has her home in the fir trees.
Psa 104:18 The high hills are for the wild goats;
The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - expanding upon Moses' account of the third day of creation…

…when God brought forth the grass of the field - the herb that yields seed - and the fruit tree that yields fruit.

And what this means is that - it was on the third day of creation…

…when God created the agricultural eco-system - by which the animals that He would create…

…would be fed with the feed - and the fruits that He created.

Now - I would be negligent not to address the wine that the psalmist mentioned there in verse 15.

Just to be clear - the word - wine - was translated from the Hebrew word - yayin…

…which was translated from an unused root that mean - sparkling.

And while the psalmist celebrated the fact that wine makes the heart of man glad…

…it's important to note that the Lord has also called us to be sober minded.

I should also point out that ancient wine was normally diluted with large amounts of water - before it was consumed.

Even the ancient pagans considered drinking wine full strength to be a barbaric practice.

According to one account - ancient wine was poured into large bowls - where it was mixed with snow or water…

…typically at a dilution rate of at least two parts water to one part wine.

So - before you use the Bible to justify the casual consumption of alcohol…

…don't forget about the dilution process that was practiced in ancient times.

As we turn out attention back to the 104th Psalm - we should consider how the psalmist described the fourth day of Creation.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 19 - where we learn that…

Psa 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons;
The sun knows its going down.
Psa 104:20 You make darkness, and it is night,
In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.
Psa 104:21 The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God.
Psa 104:22 When the sun rises, they gather together
And lie down in their dens.
Psa 104:23 Man goes out to his work
And to his labor until the evening.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - focusing our attention on the fourth day of creation…

…when the Lord created the Sun - the Moon and the Stars.

And according to Moses - the Lord created these heavenly lights to serve as signs…

…and not only that - but also for seasons - for days and for years.

Now - as we consider how the Sun - the Moon - and the stars were created on the fourth day…

…I wanna take a moment to address those who insist that the days of creation were long periods of time.

There are Old-Earth Creationists who espouse the Day-Age Theory…

…which is based on the belief that the days of creation were indefinite periods of time.

If that's the case - then we should take a moment to consider how the vegetation that God created during the third epoch of time…

…was somehow able to grow and produce fruit - before the Sun was created during the fourth epoch of time?

As we consider this question - it seems to me that - six literal days of creation would make more sense…

…as we consider the order of events.

It's for this reason that the psalmist celebrated the infinite wisdom of God - here in the 104th Psalm.

Let's consider how he put it - beginning there at verse 24 - where he declared…

Psa 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions—

Psa 104:25 This great and wide sea,
In which are innumerable teeming things,
Living things both small and great.
Psa 104:26 There the ships sail about;
There is that Leviathan
Which You have made to play there.
Psa 104:27 These all wait for You,
That You may give them their food in due season.
Psa 104:28 What You give them they gather in;
You open Your hand, they are filled with good.
Psa 104:29 You hide Your face, they are troubled;
You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
Psa 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the earth.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - celebrating the manifold wisdom that our Creator demonstrated…

…when He filled the Earth with all of His possessions.

He went on to elaborate on his point - by describing the critters and creatures that fill the depths of the Earth's oceans.

In this way - the Psalmist was referring to the fifth day of creation…

…when the Lord created all of the great sea creatures and every living thing that moves in the water - according to their kind.

It was on the same day - when He created every winged bird according to its kind.

And as we consider how the psalmist described everything that the Lord created as His possessions…

…I can't help but to remember how the Lord explained it - in the 50th Psalm - it's beginning at verse 10 - where He declared…

Psa 50:10 For every beast of the forest is Mine,
And the cattle on a thousand hills.
Psa 50:11 I know all the birds of the mountains,

And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.
Psa 50:12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you;
For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

Everything belongs to the Lord - - - the world - the crops - the animals - - everything.

And yes - this includes us - - we belong to the Lord.

And with that being the case - we should take a moment to examine our lives by asking…

…do I live - like I belong to the Lord?

I like the way that Paul put it - in Romans chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 7 - where he declared…

Rom 14:7 …none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.
Rom 14:8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's - - and with that being the case - we should live our lives for the glory of God.

Are we? - - Are we living our lives - like autonomous beings - who are doing whatever we like?

Or - are we living our lives with the realization that we belong to the Lord?

With this question in mind - let's consider how the Psalmist was living his life - for the glory of God.

Look with me again - there at the 104th psalm - beginning there at verse 31 - where the Psalmist declared…

Psa 104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
May the LORD rejoice in His works.
Psa 104:32 He looks on the earth, and it trembles;
He touches the hills, and they smoke.

Psa 104:33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Psa 104:34 May my meditation be sweet to Him;
I will be glad in the LORD.

Here in these verses - we find the anonymous author - singing the praises of our Creator.

And would it me to God that Christians would respond to the creation account…

…with the same desire - to declare the praises of the Lord.

Sadly - Genesis chapter 1 has become a point of contention for many Christians…

…and one reason why is due to the fact that - the priests of secular science have convinced many Christians…

…that the straight forward understanding of the creation account cannot be squared with the facts.

And it's for the reason that many in the church today have embraced an alternative view of the Creation account…

…which includes Old Earth Creationism - Theistic Evolution - and the Literary Framework theory.

I personally believe in young earth creationism - and just to be clear…

…Young-earth creationism is based on the belief that the creation account found in Genesis chapter 1…

…spans six literal - 24-hour days - which occurred anywhere between 6,000 - to 12,000 years ago.

If you want more details on the evidence that supports this perspective…

…you should watch my study titled - Evidence for a Young Earth.

You might not know this - but - there is an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence for young earth creationism.

Sadly - there are many in the church today who are embarrassed by the literal - six-day interpretation of the Creation Account.

For example - let's consider something William Lane Craig said back in 2013 - when he declared - and I quote…

"…over 50% of evangelical pastors think that the world is less than 10,000 years old. When you think about that, that is just hugely embarrassing. That over half of our ministers really believe that the universe is only around 10,000 years old. This is just scientifically, it's nonsense, and yet this is the view that the majority of our pastors hold. It's really quite shocking when you think about it."

That's right - pastors - like me - who believe in a literal historical interpretation of Genesis chapter 1…

…are a huge embarrassment to William Lane Craig.

And this - despite the fact that the Lord Jesus assured us that…

…God made Adam and Eve - at the beginning.

With this as our focus - let's consider how Jesus explained it to a group of Pharisees.

Hold your place here in the book of psalms - and let's turn in our Bibles to Matthew chapter 19.

And as we make our way to the 19th chapter of Matthew's gospel account…

…I wanna take a moment to remind you that - Adam was created on the 6th day of Creation.

And listen - if the Old Earthers are right - - then Jesus was wrong about the timeframe…

…when humans were created.

With this in mind - let's consider the conversation that Matthew recorded here in Matthew 19 - look with me there at verse 3 where we learn that…

Mat 19:3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?"
Mat 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'
Mat 19:5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?
Mat 19:6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

According to Jesus - God created Adam and Eve - at the beginning.

And just to be clear - the word - beginning - was translated from the Greek word - Arche…

…which in this context - refers to the commencement of something that is first in order.

What this means is that we can't agree with Jesus - - and old earth creationists who insist that…

…Adam and Eve were created - 13 billion years after the Big Bang.

With all of this in mind - let's make our way back to the 104th Psalm - so that we can consider the final warning that the Psalmist presented.

Look with me - there at verse 35 - where the psalmist declared…

Psa 104:35 May sinners be consumed from the earth,
And the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
Praise the LORD!

Here in the final verse of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - warning those who refuse to repent of their sins.

And as we consider how this warning is presented - after the poetic lyrics that highlight the creation account…

…we must not fail to realize how a celebration of our Creator can help people to see their need for salvation.

Let's coinsider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 18 - where he informs us that…

Rom 1:18 …the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.
Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,
Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,
Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Christian - listen - the Lord has revealed Himself to everyone - through the created order of the universe.

And with that being the case - we shouldn't be surprised by the satanic tactics…

…that have led the priests of secular science - to present arguments…

…against the literal interpretation of the creation account - found in Genesis chapter 1.

If the enemy can convince people to reject Genesis chapter 1 - - then he can also convince them to reject the rest of the Bible.

And if the enemy can convince people to reject the Bible - - then - - he can convince them to ignore the conviction of the Holy Spirit…

…which results in the rejection of Jesus Christ.

it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to bless the name of the Lord…

…by celebrating the One - Who created all things in six literal days.

And as we do - let's encourage every unbeliever to realize that our Creator - is also the Savior…

…Who came to die for us - so that we might live for Him.

# COMMUNION