

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



"The Hands that Hold the Universe Hold You"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Psalm 104; *Ps. 104:1–35; Ps. 103:1–5; Is. 40:11–12; Matt. 6:26–30*

Imagine how cool it would feel if someone incredibly famous, influential, or powerful knew you personally. Someone whose accomplishments had changed the world, someone admired by millions, not only knowing your name but considering you a close friend. We would probably find ways to work that into our conversations! Yet consider something infinitely more remarkable. The One who created everything, who existed before anything was, who formed the stars and set the universe in motion – the MOST famous One across all history – knows your name. And not just that: He sees you, He loves you, and He cares about every detail of your life. The hands that formed the universe are the very hands that hold you.

Psalms 103 and 104 are beautiful companion psalms. Both begin and end with the exhortation, "Bless ADONAI, O my soul!" (Ps. 103:1; 104:1). Psalm 103 celebrates God's goodness, His lovingkindness, mercy, and compassion. Psalm 104 turns our attention to His greatness, majesty, wisdom, and sovereign authority over creation. Together, they reveal something extraordinary: The God who is infinitely powerful is also intimately good. He is the Creator and Sovereign of everything, yet He knows us personally and holds us close to His heart. Recognizing who He truly is changes the way we see everything, including ourselves.

1. THE ONE WHO COMMANDS THE UNIVERSE IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING WE FACE (Psalm 104:1-9). The psalmist begins with a declaration of wonder: "ADONAI my God, You are very great!" (Ps. 104:1). He describes God as clothed with splendor and majesty, wrapping Himself in light, stretching out the heavens like a curtain, and walking upon the wings of the wind. The Creator of the universe established the earth upon its foundations and holds all creation under His authority. Even the waters – powerful, unpredictable, and potentially destructive waters– must answer to Him. At His rebuke, they flee. At the sound of His thunder, they hurry away. He establishes boundaries they cannot cross. That which humanity cannot fully control or contain answers to the voice of ADONAI.

There is something profoundly comforting about realizing that. We encounter circumstances that are completely beyond our control. Sometimes life feels as unpredictable and overwhelming as a raging sea. We cannot always change our circumstances or stop the storms, but nothing is beyond HIS authority. The same God who commands the oceans and establishes the boundaries of creation knows you and cares for you. There is nothing too difficult for Him. We sometimes imagine God through the limitations of our own understanding, but He is not made in our image; we are made in His likeness. We are limited. He is not. The One who holds the universe together is more than capable of holding *you* through whatever you are facing. Bless the LORD, Oh my soul!

2. THE ONE WHO PROVIDES FOR ALL CREATION SEES AND CARES FOR ME (Ps. 104:10–23). As Psalm 104 unfolds, we see something beautiful about the way God exercises His authority. He doesn't simply command creation; He lovingly sustains it. He sends springs into

the valleys, providing water for the wild donkeys and the beasts of the field. Birds settle among the branches and lift their voices in song. He causes grass to grow for cattle and vegetation to spring from the earth so humanity can cultivate it and bring forth bread. He gives the trees their place, the birds their nests, the wild goats their mountains, and the rock badgers their refuge. Even the sun and moon serve His purposes, marking the rhythms and appointed times of creation. Everything has its place within the wisdom of His design. What was once chaotic and potentially destructive becomes, under God's sovereign hand, a means of sustaining life.

Think about the incredible attention to detail reflected in all of this. God doesn't simply look at creation as one enormous whole. He sees the forest, but He also sees each tree. He sees the vastness of humanity, but He also sees you and me. Yeshua reminds us that our heavenly Father feeds the birds, even though they neither sow nor reap (Matt. 6:26). If He cares for them, how much more does He care for you? Consider the meticulous wisdom involved in the development of a child in the womb, with countless intricate processes working together to bring forth life. God is attentive to the smallest details of His creation. And He has not taken His eyes off you. He knows what you need, what you are facing, and who you are. The One who cares for the sparrows and the lilies of the field cares for you, and you are precious in His sight. Bless the LORD, Oh my soul!

3. THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE HOLDS *MY* LIFE IN HIS HANDS (PS. 104:24-35)

The psalmist comes to a place of overwhelming wonder: "ADONAI, how countless are Your works! In wisdom You made them all." (Ps. 104:24). From the smallest creatures to the vastness of the sea, everything reveals the brilliance of its Creator. Even Leviathan, that enormous creature of the deep, is simply another creature God formed to frolic in the waters. Nothing is too great that it doesn't bow to him or too small or insignificant that it escapes His attention. Everything ultimately depends upon Him. The psalmist declares, "When You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good." (Ps. 104:28). When He sends forth His Spirit, life is created and the face of the earth is renewed. He is not merely the One who began creation; He is the One who continually sustains it.

But here's what makes all of this so personal. The God who created the universe, who sustains every living creature, is the same God who holds *you* and *me* close to His heart. Isaiah paints that beautiful picture of ADONAI as a shepherd gathering His lambs into His arms and carrying them close to His heart (Is. 40:11). Just think about that! The One who measures the waters in the hollow of His hand is the One who holds you close to His heart. He knows your struggles, fears, hopes, and desires. Even your failures. AND He loves you. He sees not only who you are today but who He created you to become. He is working in you, renewing you by His Spirit, and drawing you into His purposes. Our response should be the same as the psalmist's: "I will sing to ADONAI as long as I live!" (Ps. 104:33). Worship becomes the natural response of a heart overwhelmed by His greatness and His love.

CONCLUSION

Sometimes we become so consumed with our immediate circumstances that we lose sight of the One who holds everything together. Our problems seem enormous, and we wonder whether God truly is paying attention what we are going through. Yet Psalm 104 invites us to lift our eyes and consider the majesty of our Creator. He formed the heavens, established the earth, commanded the waters, and filled creation with life. Nothing escapes His attention. And still, in

the midst of that incredible greatness, He knows you personally. He sees the struggles no one else sees and understands the things you cannot put into words. The hands that formed the universe hold you, and the heart of the One who created everything is turned toward you.

Perhaps you've been carrying burdens that seem impossible to overcome or trying to control circumstances beyond your ability to change. Perhaps you've felt forgotten or overwhelmed. Or perhaps you've become so familiar with the idea of God that you've lost the wonder of the REALITY of who He truly is. Whatever your circumstances, bow your heart before Him today. Surrender your fears, worries, and need to understand everything. Ask Him to open the eyes of your heart to glimpse the majesty of who He is. If you haven't surrendered your life to Yeshua, respond to Him in faith and receive His forgiveness and new life. And if you already know Him, allow His Spirit to renew your confidence in His goodness. Let His love fill you and flow through you, reflecting His kingdom in the way you live and love others. May our hearts join the psalmist in declaring, "Bless ADONAI, O my soul. Halleluyah!" (Ps. 104:35).

Discussion Questions

1. *Recognizing His Greatness*: What does Psalm 104 reveal about God's sovereignty over creation, and how should that shape our understanding of Him?
2. *His Attention to Detail*: How does God's provision for even the smallest creatures reveal His character and His care for humanity?
3. *Trusting Him in Uncertainty*: What circumstances in your life currently feel beyond your control? How might recognizing God's authority change the way you approach them?
4. *Knowing That You Are Seen and Known*: In a world where people often feel overlooked or forgotten, what does it mean to you personally that the Creator of the universe knows your name and has not taken His eyes off you?
5. *Responding Through Worship*: What practical changes could you make in your daily life to cultivate a greater awareness of God's majesty, goodness, and presence?

Closing Prayer

Avinu Malkenu, our Father our King, we worship You. You are exceedingly great, clothed in splendor and majesty. You formed the heavens, established the earth, and filled creation with life. Yet You see us, know us, love us, and hold us close to Your heart. Open the eyes of our hearts so that we might glimpse the wonder and majesty of who You are. Help us to truly grasp the incredible reality that the One who holds the universe also holds us.

Forgive us for allowing our focus on our circumstances to become greater in our minds than our focus on who You are. Teach us to trust You with what we cannot control and to rest in the assurance that You have not taken Your eyes off us. Send forth Your Spirit and breathe on us to renew us and form us into the people You created us to be. Let Your love flow in us and through us. Let Your kingdom be established in our hearts and reflected in the way we live and love others. May our lives bring glory to Your name, and may our souls never cease to bless You. Have Your way in us, Father.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.