

## ***Psalm 104***

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Psalm 104 is a poetic portrayal of the creation account:

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V: 1 “**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**” The word “bless” here means to praise with adoration.

“*Oh my soul!*” From the depths of your heart, your innermost being - with everything you’ve got.

**Matthew 22:37** “Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all our mind.”

“*O LORD, my God, ...*”

- This is a personal statement or declaration - “O Yahweh / Jehovah my Elohim. Invoking the covenant name of God “Yahweh” with creative name or title of God “Elohim” and making it personal - “my” God, “my” creator, “my” Savior, “my” Redeemer.

V: 1b-2 The Psalmist turns his heart and mind towards the Lord and he begins just to praise Him, with adoration, and heartfelt love.

- Clothed with honor and majesty, meaning it’s all over Him, all around Him.
- Covering Himself with light like a garment:

**1 Timothy 6:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”

- We move from who and what He is to what He has dominion over.
- The vastness of the heavens - it’s un-fathomable to us. The distances are so great, they are measured in “light years.” In an academic sense we know what a light year is - light traveling at 186,000 miles / second / minutes / hours / days / years = 5.88 trillion miles / year.
- They’ve discovered galaxies that are 15 billion light years away - this is beyond our ability to comprehend in an actual sense.

**Psalm 8:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup>what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”

- He stretched out the heavens like a scroll, and one day He's going to roll it back up:

**Revelation 6:14** "Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."

V: 3 The creation account given in Genesis records that God made the firmaments and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament and that He called the firmament Heaven. (**Genesis 1:7-8**)

- So the beams are bigger and stronger than a 6 X 14 glue lam beam... God uses building materials that we can't even imagine.

*"Who makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind,"*

- This is figurative speech that declares that God moves about freely, not being constrained by gravity, nor even the dimensions of time and space as we know them.

**Amos 9:6** "He who builds His layers in the sky, and has founded His strata in the earth; Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth - the Lord is His name."

V: 4 His angels, spirit beings: ministers of fire.

**Hebrews 1:14** "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who will inherit salvation?"

V: 5-9 The basis, the foundations of the earth - He is the designer and builder - so that it wouldn't be moved, solid construction.

**Genesis 1:1-2** "1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

- Today, if there were no mountains or valleys, if the earth were smooth and even, the entire surface of the earth would be covered in 6,000 feet deep in water.
- It was in the early stages of creation that God said:

**Genesis 1:9** "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear;" and it was so."

- At one point the waters covered the deep like a garment. Then as God commanded the dry land to appear the mountains emerged. This is why you find fossilized sea shells on the top of the Himalayas, and the same thing on the

south rim of the Grand Canyon, at the 7,000 foot level, that's not even counting the flood of Noah's time.

- There are parts of the ocean near the Philippines where it's estimated to be 35,000 feet deep - God has moved a lot of dirt around.
- Got set and determined the boundaries for the seas.

V: 10-14 God provides for all of His creatures, where there is water trees and shrubs grow, the birds make their homes.

- I don't know about you, but this is kind of what I picture:
- God sets the seasons and cycles into motion.



V: 15 I assume that we probably all know how obviously glad some people can be when they've had too much wine.

**Proverbs 20:1** "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

- The subject of Christians consuming alcohol an interesting subject, and not without some controversy.
- There is not an outright prohibition against the consumption of alcohol, only against drunkenness.
- There are prohibitions in place against spiritual leaders consuming alcohol.
- Proverbs tells us that it's not for kings or princes:

Speaking of the priests:

**Isaiah 28:7** "But they also have erred through wine, and through intoxicating drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, they are swallowed up by wine, they are out of the way through intoxicating drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

- A part of the Nazarite vow, which was the vow or the consecration of one's own life to God, part of that vow was to abstain from wine.
- Sadly the trend within Christianity has been much more towards a permissive attitude, in my mind a compromised perspective as opposed to a life of consecration and self denial.
- People often argue: Well, didn't Jesus turn the water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

- Yes, He did - but the wine spoken of in the Bible is not the fermented wine that we think of today with it's roughly 12% alcohol content. The wine spoken of in the Bible, most of the time is simply fresh squeezed grape juice - and the "strong drink" that we see in the Bible is actually the fermented / alcoholic wine that we think of as wine.
- Another reason why I believe that the wine that Jesus provided in Cana was simply non-alcoholic grape juice is because of the prohibition against providing intoxicating drink to others.

**Habakkuk 2:15** "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk..."

- Jesus wouldn't have violated the Law or the Prophets.
- I think we should use Jesus as our role-model in everything, and in this:

Jesus declared:

**Luke 22:18** "For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

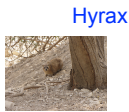
- I think the real issue with Christians and drinking generally comes down to a couple of basic things:
  1. Who are we trying to please? Ourselves or God?
  2. Who are we trying to minister to? Ourselves or other people?
  3. As a Police Officer and as a Pastor, I haven't seen anything good come from alcohol consumption, it's destroyed so many lives - and I believe that so many Christians have been duped by the enemy regarding this.
- It's an interesting subject, worthy of further discussion - and I've recently acquired a little book on the subject if anyone would be interested in learning more about it.

V: 15b Years ago they discovered that vitamin E which is in the wheat germ is very good for your heart, not so much the processed flour of today, but the whole grain breads. God provides the bread which strengthens man's heart. Physically and spiritually, eternally! (Chew on that for a moment...)

V: 16-18 So if someone calls you a "big sap" - it's because you're a tree of the Lord!

- The word "sap" is in italics to denote that it was added by the translators. In context these last several verses are still relating to the fact that God sends the springs into the valleys (V: 10) that water the beasts and allow the crops to grow - and that the cedars of Lebanon which are really big like Redwood trees, just that they are full of that same fresh spring water.

- Because of that, in turn the birds have a place to make their nests and so on.
- The “rock badgers” sometimes referred to as the “Hyrax” or “Conies” are interesting, I think that the translation “rock badgers” is more description, at least in comparison to the ones I ran into in Israel:
- I took these pictures when I was in Engedi, David’s hide out from Saul, not too far from the dead sea.



V: 19-23 God controls the earthly sequence of events, and He controls the heavenly.

- To me verse 20 in particular is very profound: “You make darkness, and it is night...” I get that, but then comes the creepy part.... “and all the beasts of the forest creep about.”
- God provides for animals and men. Sadly too many men have stopped working, stopped laboring - now like animals they are creeping about in the dark.

V: 24-26 The Psalmist is describing the creative genius of God, acknowledging that God created it, and that it is His. The Earth and all it’s fullness belongs to the Lord.

- Acknowledging the creative power of God, seeing the wisdom of God manifest in creation. God establishing the order of the heavens and the universe.

The Apostle Paul declares:

**Romans 1:19-21** “<sup>19</sup>Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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.”

- They, we have seen the eternal power of God, and we are all without excuse.

**Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

V: 25-26 “*This great wide sea...*” - speaking of the Mediterranean, teeming with life; small and large like “Leviathan” - mostly likely speaking of whales.

V: 27-30 These, they, we - are all dependent upon the Lord for our food, for our daily bread.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- He is **Jehovah-Jireh** “The Lord will provide”
- <sup>29</sup>When His face shines upon us, we are blessed - but when He hides His face from us, then yes we are and should be troubled.

“<sup>29b</sup>*You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.*”

**Deuteronomy 32:39** “Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.”

- God is the giver of life, and God is the taker of life, God is sovereign.
- This verse partly explains the death process:
- God takes away their breath, removes their breath - remember how God created man?

**Genesis 2:7** “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

- There comes a point when God takes that same breath away.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the Spirit will return to God who gave it.”

- We are made in the image of God, an inferior, and an incomplete trinity. Body, soul, & spirit.
- When we are born again, we are in fellowship and communion with God - the point of connection being through the Spirit.
- When a person who is “born again” dies, their body returns to dust but the “spirit” which is in them is connected to the soul, their consciousness. The Spirit along with the soul returns to God who gave it. The soul / consciousness being transported into the presence of God.
- The non-believer, those that are not re-generate, those who have not been born again of the Spirit - have no spirit to return to God. Their soul, their

consciousness when it is separated from the body at death is then immediately transported to hell.

**Luke 16:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>Then he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”

- The rich man was conscious and aware of His fate

V: 30 By the power of the Holy Spirit we see the renewal of His creation - isn't that what God does? He renews us!

**Psalms 51:10** “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

V: 31-35 The exaltation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

- May the Lord rejoice in His works - and opposed to being grieved by us / His works.
- The “gaze” of the Lord causes the earth to tremble, and the hills to smoke. Because there is fire in His eyes.

**Revelation 19:11-12a** “<sup>11</sup>Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. and He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were like a flame of fire,..”

- <sup>33</sup>I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, may my meditations be sweet and pleasing to Him.

**Psalms 19:14** “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

V: 35 May sinners be consumed and the wicked be no more - that's pretty much the plan.

**Hebrews 12:29** “For our God is a consuming fire.”

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord.”*