

Psalm 104—The Wisdom & Love of the Creator

Introduction

- Author: unknown—may have also written Psalm 103
- Use: It was part of temple worship and could have been used on a festival day, such as the New Year.
- Theme: “The orderly description of creation from Genesis becomes a more spontaneous display of the wonders of God’s creation...The psalm pictures these days of creation in everyday scenes. A man cultivating the fields, birds building nests, goats in the mountains, and the other scenes from these verses all show Gods creation in its beauty and activity. God’s sustaining and ordering hand is behind the interrelatedness of creation.” (ESV Study Bible)

Quick Review of Creation in Genesis 1

Day	Verses in Genesis 1	What was Created	Verses from Psalm 104
1	vv. 3-5		v. 2a
2	vv. 6-8		vv. 2b-4
3	vv. 9-13		vv. 5-18
4	vv. 14-19		vv. 19-23
5	vv. 20-23		vv. 24-26 and others
6	vv. 24-27		scattered throughout

Our Wondrous God (verses 1-4)

1. The author states the theme here in the first verse—the introduction to the psalm. What is the purpose of this psalm?
2. What is the first phenomenon of nature mentioned by the psalmist (v. 2)?
What were God’s first words of creation?
3. The heavens (or sky) were created on the second day. How is this referred to in the psalm?
4. These first few verses list all sorts of kingly attributes: majestic garment, heavenly dwelling, chariots of clouds riding on the wind, servants and messengers. According to Hebrews 1:7, what might his messengers/winds and servants/flames of fire be?

In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds,
his servants flames of fire.” –Hebrews 1:7

The Fruitfulness of the Earth (verses 5-18)

5. On day 3 of creation, God gathered the waters together and the dry land appeared. How does the psalmist describe this as happening in verses 6-7?

6. Verse 9 talks about a boundary so that “never again will they [the waters] cover the earth”. Where do we hear about a similar idea later in the book of Genesis?

7. God provides water from below (springs) and above (the rains). What are some of the beneficial uses of water listed in verses 10-13?

8. The psalmist moves on to the abundant plant life created by God on day 3. How are these portrayed in verses 14-18?

The Moon and the Sun (verses 19-23)

9. Why is darkness a part of God’s good provision?

God Sustains His Creation (verses 24-30)

10. What do the words “in wisdom you made them all” (v. 24) tell you about the beginning of life on earth?

11. On days 5 and 6, God created creatures of the sea, birds, animals, and humans. He does not stop there. How does God continue to love and care for His creation?

Praise to the Creator (verses 31-35)

12. What two wishes does the psalmist express in verse 31?

13. In verse 31, the psalmist prays that the Lord would rejoice in His works. How do we know that God originally delighted in His creation?

14. The wonders of nature fill the psalmist with delight. How will the psalmist (and you) express this?

Take delight in the wonders of nature and “Praise the Lord, O my soul!”