



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

PSALM 104:1-4, 24-30

LESSON: PRAISE FOR THE CREATOR'S WISDOM — January 22, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

The writer of this psalm is anonymous.

It deals with the creation of the earth and the praise due to God's great power.

LESSON: I. THE GREATNESS OF GOD Psalm 104:1-4

104:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Immediately, the keynote for the psalm is set. It begins and ends like the one which precedes it (Psalm 103:1-2). A psalm that praises the Creator and His creation can only begin with the statement that the Lord is *"very great."* Therefore, *"Bless the Lord O my soul"* is appropriate. Yet, this is a remarkable blending of faith and fear. The psalmist speaks the unspeakable name of Jehovah with holy reverence, and yet personalizes Jehovah by calling Him *"my God."* The greatness of Creator is greater than the Creation. Therefore, the Creator is to be worshiped. Honor and majesty is His clothing, an awesome array!

104:2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:— For four verses the psalmist begins with *"Who."* There is only one Creator for Creation! And He is covered with light. Light was the first thing created (Gen.1:3), before the heaven (Gen.1:6-8) or the earth. Light—is a figurative representation of the glory of the invisible God and also the first display of Creation. Heaven is represented as a tent stretched out, with curtains drawn around it, to hide the dazzling and unapproachable light in which the Lord dwells. The *"Who"*— is God who has covered Himself with light as a garment and it is God who stretches Himself out the heavens like a curtain. The heavens are God's dwelling place (Ps.123:1b).

104:3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:—The *"Who"*— is God. ***"He laid the foundation of His dwelling on the waters."*** The word here rendered *"layeth"* means properly to meet; or to fit into each other, as beams or joists do in a dwelling. It is a word which would be properly applied to the construction of a house. The word rendered *"beams"* means *"an upper chamber, a loft."* It refers here to the chamber - the exalted abode of God - as if raised above all other edifices, or above the world. The word *"waters"* here refers to the



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description of the Creation in Genesis 1:6-7 - the waters *"above the firmament,"* and the waters *"below the firmament."* The allusion here is to the waters above the firmament; and the meaning is, that God had constructed the place of His own abode - the room where He dwelt - in those waters; that is, in the most exalted place in the universe. It does not mean that He made it of the waters, but that His home - His dwelling-place - was in or above those waters, as if He had built His dwelling not on solid earth or rock, but the waters, giving stability to that which seems to have no stability, and making the very waters a foundation for the structure of His abode. God has chambers in the heavens. The foundations of the beams that are laid out are strong enough to hold the waters. *"Beams"* in the natural are for structural support. And I imagine beams in the spiritual are of strength to withhold God's habitation. In Genesis 1, the firmament that God made divided the waters. ***"He makes the clouds His chariot and he soars on wings of wind."*** Only God makes the clouds the flooring of His chariot and moves upon the wings of the wind. He moves with ease in the heavens. *"...he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight"* Acts 1:9.

104:4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:— The *"Who"*— is God. **"He made angels His spirits and ministers a flaming fire."** Note the word *"make"*, angels are made, that is, created and controlled by God. They are created spirits to serve God in the operation of the universe. God employs them to execute His purpose; sending them out as messengers or angels to do His will, just as wind and fire are used to serve God and man. Therefore, God's ministers are flaming fire to accomplish His purpose as His ministers or servants. We see both are at the bidding of God who created them, and they have always served God!

II. THE WISDOM OF GOD'S WORKS Psalm 104:24-30

104:24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. The psalmist says how manifold (diverse and many) are the Lord's works. The method is by God's wisdom. Creation is filled with stunning variety, revealing the rich creativity, goodness, and wisdom of our loving God. Just as His creativity, there is a diverse uniqueness given in His profound wisdom.

104:25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. This corresponds to the 5th day of Creation (Gen.1:21). This is that collection of waters which God called seas. There are countless and inestimable measures of every kind of creeping creatures; the great beasts are living with the small. Cornelius

104:26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. The ships that



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men sail over the sea; that go from place to place do not defile the Creation order. "*Leviathan*" in this scripture is a serpent; one of the great sea creatures at the bottom of the sea. Although the word can be used for an enemy of God, it was allowed to play in the sea. This psalm joins the creation account in portraying the various creatures as subject to the Lord and not opposing Him. The Leviathan has this vast sea to play in as God's creations.

104:27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. All the creatures depend upon the Lord's provision, even the Leviathan. Each living thing on the land and sea (these all wait); depend on God to supply their food in due season. Psalm 74:14 says "*Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.*" The fiercest of creatures is no match for God who provides when it's needed or in its due season. As cattle have "*grass,*" and lions "*meat,*" from God, so every kind of animal receives from the same source its proper food. "*...Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat... Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap...*" Lk.12:22, 24.

104:28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. All God has to do is simply open His hand and creatures gather for their generous fill. They are filled and satisfied with good (whether spiritual or physical). All are gathered by the hand of faith. The whole of creation must recognize that, as it did not come into existence by itself and cannot maintain existence by itself.

104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. If God withdraws the light of His countenance from His living creatures, they are confounded. He who gave them breath, should He take away that breath, they die and return to dust; the dust from which they were formed. To hide His face is to withdraw favor.

104:30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. God sends forth His Spirit or breath, or His mere Word, and fresh life is created. So, our every breath depends on the Spirit of God breathed into us. Though one generation passes off, yet a new one is made in its place, and the face of the earth constantly puts on the aspect of freshness and newness. God first made man of the dust of the earth, and breathed the breath of life in him, and he became a living soul. Creation continues to manifest itself. And Creation as such is an ongoing thing. Other living creatures are produced. And thus by thy wise and wonderful providence thou preserves the succession of living creatures.

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SUMMARY:

104:1-4 The 104th Psalm is a Psalm of the Creation of the world and everything in it. The author is anonymous appreciating God through His creation. The psalmist speaks of the greatness of the Creator therefore, He asks the Lord His God to bless his soul. Within His greatness He is clothed with honor and majesty. God is He Who covers Himself with a robe of light as a garment and stretches out the heavens like a curtain. God is He Who lays the foundation of His dwelling on the waters, and makes the clouds His chariot and he soars on wings of wind. God is He Who made angels His spirits and ministers a flaming fire.

104:24-30 ¹The Lord has made so many things! How wisely He made them all! The earth is filled with His creatures. There is the ocean, large and wide, where countless creatures live, large and small alike. The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan, that sea monster which God made. All of them depend on God to give them food when they need it. God gives it to them, and they eat it; He provides food, and they are satisfied. When He turns away, they are afraid; when God takes away His breath, they die and go back to the dust from which they came. But when God gives them breath, they are created; God gives new life to the earth. *Good News Translation (GNT)*

¹<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>