

A Creation Psalm

Agree or disagree? Genesis chapter 1 gave a scientific account of how the world began.

Genesis chapter one told the narrative story of how God created the world in which we live.

Psalm 104 is a poem that reflects on how God created and still preserves the world in which we live.

Look at the first verse of the psalm. What does this teach us about our approach to the world in which we live?

Compare verse 4 with Hebrews 1:7.

About the angels he [God] says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

What does this teach us about the world in which we live?

Read the verses in Day Three.

Agree or disagree? The world operates the way it does because of natural laws.

What is the purpose of the water and the land on the earth?

Read the verses in Day Four. What is the purpose of the lights in the sky?

How do the following three statements relate to each other?

"You bring darkness, and it becomes night."

The sun set.

The earth rotated halfway around its axis, and now it's dark because the sun is blocked from view.

Read verses 25-26. What is especially impressive about the sea and its creatures?

Jesus says in Matthew 6:25-26:

“For this reason I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?”

What similar thought do you find in Psalm 104?

What awesome truth are we reminded of in verses 29-30?

Read verses 31-34. What does this teach us about our approach to life in this world?

May sinners come to an end on the earth, and the wicked—may they be no more (35).

Why do you think this statement is included in the psalm?

The psalm begins and ends with *Bless the LORD, O my soul.*

The final words are *Praise the Lord!* (This is the first time *Hallelujah!* appears in the book of Psalms.)

What can this psalm teach us about our attitude toward “doing science”?

Psalm 104

Bless the LORD, Who Creates Wonders

Introduction

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul.
O LORD my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with splendor and majesty.

Day One—Light

² He wears light like a robe.

Day Two—the Sky

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy.
³ He lays beams on the waters to support his upper chambers.
He makes clouds his chariot.
He travels on the wings of the wind.
⁴ He makes his messengers winds.
His ministers are blazing fire.

Day Three—the Waters and Plants

⁵ He placed the earth firmly on its foundations.
It cannot be moved forever and ever.
⁶ You covered it with the deep as a garment.
The waters stood above the mountains.
⁷ At your rebuke they fled.
At the sound of your thunder they hurried away.
⁸ The waters surged up the mountains.
They went down into the valleys,
to the place that you prepared for them.
⁹ You set a boundary that they cannot cross.
They will not return to cover the earth.
¹⁰ He makes springs flow into streams
that run between the mountains.
¹¹ They give water to every wild animal.
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.
¹² The birds of the sky live by the streams.
From among the branches they send out their song.
¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers.
The earth is filled with the fruit he produces.

¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants that people use to produce food from the earth.

¹⁵ Also wine that makes people's hearts glad,
olive oil to make their face shine,
and bread that sustains their lives.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD have everything they need.

He planted the cedars of Lebanon,

¹⁷ where birds make their nests.

The stork has its home in the fir trees.

¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats.

The crags are a refuge for the rock badgers.

Day Four—the Lights

¹⁹ The moon marks off the months and seasons.

The sun knows when to go down.

²⁰ You bring darkness, and it becomes night.

During it all the animals in the forest move about.

²¹ The young lions roar for their prey.

They are seeking their food from God.

²² The sun rises, and they gather together.

They return to their dens and lie down.

²³ Man goes out to his work.

He continues his labor until evening.

Days Five and Six—Animals and Man

²⁴ How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Here is the sea, great and very wide.

In it creatures swarm beyond number—

living things, the small with the large.

²⁶ There the ships go back and forth,
and the leviathan that you formed to play in it.

²⁷ All of them wait hopefully for you to give them their food in its time.

²⁸ You give it to them. They gather it up.

You open your hand. They are satisfied with good things.

²⁹ You hide your face. They are terrified.
You take away their breath.
They breathe their last and return to their dust.
³⁰ You send your Spirit—they are created.
You renew the face of the earth.

Closing Benediction and Prayer

³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever.
May the LORD rejoice in his works.
³² He looks at the earth and it trembles.
He touches the mountains and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD throughout my life.
I will make music to my God as long as I last.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ May sinners come to an end on the earth,
and the wicked—may they be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!