

# Psalm 104

This Psalm is regarded by some as the poetical commentary upon the first chapters of Genesis, an outstanding description of the glory of the physical created world.

**The Psalm covers different aspects of the earth's creation, all showing the power and majesty of the Creator God.**

- a) The major terrestrial features of sea and land, [verses 5-9].
- b) The comprehensive water supply for the maintenance of life, [verses 10-13].
- c) The provision of food [especially for humans] and natural means for secure habitation for humans and beasts, [verses 14-18].
- d) The daily and seasonal rhythm of life and work, [verses 19-23].

**Note the great range of thought presented by the Psalmist.**

**From the immensity and versatility of the Creator God, who created all of this wonderful world as easy as we draw a curtain across a window, [verse 2] to the tiring routine of a day in a human's life, [verse 23].**

**From the vast labour and purpose of the earth's creation to the effortless song of a bird on a tree top, [verse 12].**

The thirst of wild asses, [verse 11] is matched by the hunger of young lions, [verse 21].

The awesome expanse of the deep waters which cover much of the earth, [verse 6] is contrasted with the restful greenery of meadows, [verse 14].

**In particular all these verses declare that all creation is subject to the Creator, showing us His greatness and great wisdom as all creation is interdependent one on another.**

**As light both reveals and dazzles, so the Creator God both shows Himself in His physical creation, [Romans 1:20] yet hides Himself by being clothed in a light that humans cannot endure.**

**Psalms 104:7** [New King James] *“At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.”*

The Creator God's *“rebuke”* is His authoritative command and *“the thunder”* is the voice of Him who speaks and it is done, [Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, etc.; Psalms 33:6].

**Psalms 104:24-25** [New King James] *“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions, this great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great.”*

**The Psalmist now turns to meditate on the fact that this varied and mighty earth and universe is utterly dependent on the Creator God.**

Showing the Creator God's power and great wisdom. Especially the Psalmist is impressed by the vastness of the sea and all that live in it, both great and small, [verse 25].

Leviathan, [verse 26] was the mythical sea-monster, [Job 41:1-11] symbolic of the mighty power reposing in all created life yet utter subject to the Creator God.

**Psalms 104:27-29** [New King James] *“These all wait for You, that You may give them their food in due season. What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.”*

**All creatures large and small are dependent on the Creator God for their food, for their experience of distress and the duration of their lives and the renewal of their kind in the following generation, [Job 12:9-10; Job 34:14-15].**

**All have been created by the Spirit of God who continually renews earth’s natural life from year to year, [verse 30].** In the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament the Holy Spirit, or Spirit of Christ, [Romans 8:9] being One Person of the Triune God, is the life-giver and is seen here in His distinctive creative work.

**Psalms 104:31** [New King James] *“May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works.”*

**The satisfaction that humanity finds in the world that the Creator God has given them gives rise to the question in the Psalmist’s mind, “is God equally satisfied with His world, which includes human beings?”** The Psalmist prays that He may be, he is also aware that the Creator God has the power to make things conform to His will [verse 32]. Consequently pledges himself to worship this great Creator God, [verse 33] and prays for acceptance, [verse 34].

**The Psalmist also faces the reality that the Creator God being a Holy being that there is no place for sin in His world, and His full pleasure will only be found when all sin is removed, [verse 35].**

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

**Repentance being first step towards such a world.**