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Rice Memorial MBC

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Praise for the Creator's Wisdom

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **January 22, 2017**

Worship with us at 3201 Mary St until we rebuild our sanctuary at 15th & State.
...We're located just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

Psalm 104:1-4, 24-30

Introduction: David, in the former psalm, gave God the glory of his covenant-mercy and LOVE to his own people; in this he gives him the glory of his works of **CREATION** and **providence**, his **dominion** over, and his bounty to, all the creatures. God is there **praised** as the God of GRACE, here as the **God of NATURE**. And this psalm is wholly bestowed on that subject not as Psalm 19:1-14, which begins with it, but passes from it to the consideration of the divine law nor as Psalm 8:1-9, which speaks of this but **prophetically**, and with an eye to **Christ**.

...Many great things the psalmist here gives God the glory of **I**. The splendour of his majesty in the upper world, Psalms 104:1-4. **II**. The creation of the sea and the dry land, Psalms 104:5-9. **III**. The provision he makes for the maintenance of all the creatures according to their nature, Psalms 104:10-18, 27,28. **IV**. The regular course of the sun and moon, Psalms 104:19-24. **V**. The furniture of the sea, Psalms 104:25,26. **VI**. God's sovereign power over all the creatures, Psalms 104:29-32. And, lastly, he concludes with a pleasant and firm resolution to **continue praising** God (Psalms 104:33-35), with which we should heartily join in singing this psalm. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/psalms-104.html>)

Thought 1. David wrote this Psalm in the last year of his life. He left his body at age seventy to go and REST in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16) until Jesus was resurrected, and took him, and the others of FAITH, from there to heaven. (Source: *Reese Chronological Bible*)

These words came to his heart as he began to commune with his God, and are the benefit of his ministry as a prophet and being close to him. He looked at him, and his works; and gave him PRAISE! There is no better place to have our MIND than on Jehovah (Yahweh), our God as we prepare to end our work, and in time, receive our reward for obedience! Another truth we should know is WE, his children, control how CLOSE our relationship is with our Father. Some folk say, "If you make ONE step, he'll make TWO". But, see what the scriptures say.

James 4:6-8, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God **resisteth (OPPOSE)** the PROUD, but giveth grace unto the **HUMBLE**. Submit yourselves therefore (for this reason) to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. (You) **Draw NIGH** to **God**, and **HE will draw NIGH** to you.

Psalm 104:1, **BLESS** the **LORD** (Jehovah [Yahweh]), O my soul. O LORD (Yahweh) my God (Deity), thou art very great; thou art **clothed** with HONOUR and MAJESTY.

Bless defined 1288, praise, thank, (as an act of adoration [external homage { reverential worship; devout affection (LOVE) }, accompanied with the highest reverence. It is used for the act of praying, or preferring requests or thanksgiving, to the Supreme Being.]).

NOTE: The psalmist looks up to the **divine glory** shining in the upper world, of which, though it is one of the things NOT seen, faith is the evidence. With what **reverence** and **holy awe** does he begin his meditation with that acknowledgment: O Lord my God! thou art very great! It is the **JOY** of the saints that he who is their God is a great God. The **grandeur** of the prince is the pride and pleasure of all his good subjects. The **majesty** of God is here set forth by various instances, alluding to the figure which great princes in their public appearances covet to make. Their equipage, compared with his (even of the eastern kings, who most affected pomp), is but as the light of a glow-worm compared with that of the sun, when he goes forth in his strength. Princes appear great, **1.** In their robes; and what are God's robes? Thou art **clothed** with **HONOUR** and **MAJESTY**... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/psalms-104.html>)

Psalm 104:2-4, Who COVEREST thyself with **LIGHT** as with a **garment**: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the **clouds** his **chariot**: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: Who maketh his **angels spirits**; his **ministers** a **flaming fire**...

NOTE: Who coverest thyself with light - Light, insufferable **splendor**, is the robe of the Divine Majesty. LIGHT and FIRE are generally the accompaniments of the Supreme Being, when he manifests his presence to his creatures. He appeared thus to Abraham when he made a covenant with him, Genesis 15:17; and to Moses when he appointed him to bring the people out of Egypt, Exodus 3:2; and when he gave him his law on Sinai, Ex. 19:18. Moses calls God a **consuming fire**, Deuteronomy 4:24. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/psalms-104.html>)

Psalm 104:5, Who laid the **foundations** of the earth, that it should NOT be removed **for ever**.

NOTE: When God established the earth, he put it into a certain **orbit** and at certain **tilt**. The earth orbits the sun once a year, and because of its tilt, the seasons occur. We are told that the earth's axis is tilted at **23.45 degrees**, making different places on the earth face toward the sun at different times of the year. Summer is warmer than winter because the rays of the sun hit the earth at a more direct angle during summer months. This is **NOT** a matter of happenstance, it is from the direct creating power of God. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Thought 1. Since scripture says the foundations of the earth will NOT be removed for ever, that means when God makes the new atmosphere and the new earth that's written about in the book of Revelation and other scriptures, the earth will have the SAME foundation it had when God first created it.

Psalm 104:6-9, Thou coveredst it with the DEEP as with a garment: the waters stood **above** the mountains. At thy **rebuke (check or restrain)** they **fled**; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast **set** a bound that they may NOT **pass over**; that they turn **NOT again** to **COVER** the earth.

Thought 1. Genesis 1:1-2, and 2 Peter 3:3-7 also tell of water covering the mountains. But Genesis 1:1, speaks of the fact that God created the earth IN the BEGINNING.

Genesis 1:1, In the **beginning** (FIRST state; entrance into BEING) **God created** the heaven and the earth.

Thought 2. In order to get the proper context of what is meant by “the beginning,” I’ll remind you of John 1:1. It says. “**In the beginning** was the WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was **in the beginning** with God.” This tells us the time being spoken of is the BEGINNING of ALL creation, when ALL things were made, that’s Genesis 1:1.

LATER, in Genesis 1:31, at the end of the SIX DAY creation, scripture says that God SAW everything he had created, and behold (SEE) it was “**very good!**”

Genesis 1:31, And God SAW every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was **very good.** And the evening and the morning were the **sixth day.**

Thought 3. So, WHENEVER and WHATEVER God creates, it’s ALWAYS created very GOOD! With that thought in mind let’s look at Gen. 1:2, Jer. 4, and 2 Pet. 3.

Genesis 1:2, And the earth was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and **darkness** was upon the face of the DEEP. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the **waters.**

Without form defined 8414, a desolation [a waste: a DESTRUCTION].

Void defined 922, an undistinguishable RUIN.

Jeremiah 4:23, I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was **WITHOUT FORM**, and **VOID**; and the heavens, and they had **NO light.**

2 Peter 3:3-6, Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own **lusts (desires)**, And saying, Where is the **promise** of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, ALL things continue as they were from the **BEGINNING** of the **creation (original formation)**. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of OLD, and the earth standing out of the water and IN the water: Whereby the **world** that then **WAS**, being **OVERFLOWED** with **WATER**, **PERISHED (destroy [RUIN] FULLY)**.

Thought 4. Notice, the earth and sky EXISTED, but were fully destroyed: described so in Genesis 1:2, Jeremiah 4:23 and 2 Peter 3:3-6! The question now is since the earth and EVERYTHING God ever created was created “very GOOD”, why is the earth “a RUIN?” The answer is found in looking at where SIN first originated.

Scriptures tells us sin began with Lucifer, known now as Satan. God created him good, but then he corrupted himself. And there was WAR in Heaven, and as we know Lucifer was defeated and was JUDGED by God, along with the earth, which was covered with water: made a RUIN, where **he** had **reigned** on his **throne**.

Remember, the flood of Noah’s time did NOT destroy ALL of the life on earth, nor destroyed the sky. So, this is WHY in Gen 1:2, the Spirit of God (Yahweh) MOVED, as he was about to make the earth “very good” AGAIN in the SIX DAY creation! As we know, this time, he gives “mankind” dominion over it.

Isaiah 14:12-13, How art thou **fallen** from **heaven**, O **Lucifer**... how art thou **cut down** to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine **heart**, I will ascend into heaven, **I WILL** EXALT **my throne** above the stars of **God**...

Ezekiel 28:14-15, Thou art the **anointed** cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou **was PERFECT** in thy ways from the day that thou **wast CREATED**, **till iniquity** was found **IN thee**.

Revelation 12:7-9 And there was **WAR** in **heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the **dragon**; and the dragon fought and his **angels**, And prevailed NOT; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the

great dragon was cast out, that **old SERPENT**, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which **deceiveth** the whole world: he was cast out INTO the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Psalm 104:10-14, He sendeth the **springs** into the **valleys**, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He **watereth** the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the **grass** to grow for the **cattle**, and **herb** for the service of man: that he may bring forth **FOOD** out of the earth...

Isaiah 55:10-11, For as the **rain** cometh down... the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall **my WORD** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall NOT return unto me **void (emptily)**, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall **PROSPER** in the **thing** whereto **I SENT it**.

Thought 1. Most of us have heard the part of these verses that speak of God's word not returning VOID. But, when we back up in scripture to get the context of "his word NOT returning void," it doesn't convey the meaning we hear most often BELIEVED.

We all know that when it rains, not ALL of the earth absorbs the water. It's the same with sowing SEED. In the parable of the sower, even though the seed fell on ALL types of ground, it couldn't produce in the "hard" ground because it was NOT UNDERSTOOD so it could be received. (Matt. 13:19) But, what God wanted took place, in that his WORD went to **all grounds** and "**PROSPERED.**"

Psalm 104:15-24, And **wine** that **maketh glad** the **heart** of **man**, and **oil** to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The **trees** of the LORD are full of **sap**; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; Where the **birds** make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the **wild goats**; and the rocks for the **conies (rock-rabbit)**. He appointed the MOON for seasons: the SUN knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein **all the beasts** of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. **MAN** goeth forth unto **his work** and to **his labour** until the **evening**. O LORD (Yahweh), how manifold are **thy WORKS!** in **WISDOM** hast thou **MADE them ALL:** the **earth** is **full of thy riches**.

NOTE: When MEN undertake many works, and of different kinds, commonly SOME of them are neglected and not done with due care; but God's works, though many and of very different kinds, are all made in wisdom and with the greatest exactness; there is NOT the **least flaw** nor **defect** in them. The works of art, the more closely they are looked upon with the help of microscopes, the more rough they appear; the works of NATURE through these glasses appear more fine and exact. They are all **made** in **wisdom**, for they are all made to answer the end they were designed to serve, the good of the universe, in order to the **glory** of the **universal Monarch**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/psalms-104.html>)

Thought 1. When we look at a number of scriptures, we see that God the Father, (Yahweh) created ALL things BY his Son, Jesus (Yahshua).

John 1:1-3, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God (**supreme** [Highest] **Divinity** [Deity]), and the **Word was God (a deity)**. The same was in the beginning with God. ALL THINGS were **MADE** by HIM; and **without** him was NOT any thing **made** that **was made**.

Colossians 1:12-16, Giving thanks unto the **Father...power** of darkness, and hath translated us INTO the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who IS the image of the invisible God, the **FIRSTBORN** of every **creature (original formation, creation)**: For **BY (IN)** him were all things CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ALL things were created **BY (through)** him, and for him...

Hebrews 11:3, Through **FAITH** we **understand** that the **WORLDS** were **framed** by the WORD of God, so that **things** which ARE SEEN were NOT made of (from) **things** which **do appear (be SEEN)**.

Worlds defined 165, aion Pronounced: ahee-ohn': the world (CREATION, UNIVERSE [the totality of ALL matter and energy that exists in the vastness of space, whether known to human beings or NOT]).

Psalm 104:25-26, So is this great and wide **SEA**, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that **leviathan (a serpent (espec. the crocodile or some other large sea-monster))**, whom thou hast made to plau therein.

NOTE: Its waters, like arms, encompassing all the terrene parts of the globe. I suppose the psalmist was within sight of the Mediterranean when he wrote these words. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/psalms-104.html>)

Psalm 104:27-28, These **WAIT all** upon thee; that thou mayest give them their **meat** in DUE season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with **good**.

Thought 1. This is a part of "Providence, the CARE (oversight, implying concern for safety and prosperity) and superintendence (care and oversight for the purpose of direction 1913 Webster's) which God exercises over his creatures.

A belief in divine providence is a source of great consolation (COMFORT) to good men.

Luke 12:6-7, Are not **five sparrows** sold for TWO farthings, and NOT one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear NOT therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Colossians 1:17 ...he (*Jesus*) is **before (in front of)** all things, and **BY him** ALL things **consist (stand** (to be in a state of fixedness; hence, to CONTINUE).

Psalm 104:29-30, Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their **breath (life)**, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are **created:** and thou **RENEWEST (renew** [restore to a GOOD state after decay: destruction]) the face of the earth.

NOTE: ... **thou renewest** ..by a **NEW SET** of creatures of all kinds being brought upon it to fill it. As there is also a daily renewing it every morning by the rising sun, giving fresh **life** and vigour to all created beings; and a yearly one every spring, when the face of all nature is **RENEWED** and **revived**.

(Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

Psalm 104:31-35, The **glory** of the LORD (*Yahweh*) shall endure for ever: the LORD (*Yahweh*) shall **REJOICE** in his works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will **SING** unto the LORD (*Yahweh*) **as long as I live**: I will **sing praise** to **my God** while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be SWEET: I will be **GLAD** in the LORD (*Yahweh*). Let the **sinners** be consumed out of the earth, and let the **WICKED** be **NO MORE**. Bless thou the LORD (*Yahweh*), O my soul. **Praise ye** the Lord (*Yahweh*).