

Psalms 104

Psalms 104:33-35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord O my soul! Praise the Lord!

The values of Psalms 104 are several. It is a contemplation of God's work of creation through the template of Genesis 1. As such, the Psalm demonstrates a method of meditation that we can apply as we find the truth of the word intersecting with our experiences in life. The specific lesson of the Psalm is the insight into how God set out by means of the created order to meet our every need. This reality has been encountered freshly in every stage of human existence and remains the case today.

Notice that the Psalm follows the Genesis story in chronological order:

Psalms 104:1-4 with Gen. 1:3-8

Psalms 104:5-9 with Gen. 1:9,10

Psalms 104:10-18 with Gen. 1:11-13

Psalms 104:19-30 with Gen. 1:14-31

Psalms 104:31-35 with Gen. 2:1-3

So, the method of the Psalmist is to take the Genesis record of creation and look for this in his daily walk. It is like a nature walk in which you look for God in and about all that you see. In the experience of light and sea and clouds and wind and lightning he sees God majestically clothed with light. He sees God making His home in the heavens and on the waters, traveling by means of wind and clouds. His presence is announced by the angels, His servants, in bursts of fire and light.

Next the psalmist contemplates the seas, waters that covered the whole earth but which were ordered back into their place by God's command. In the boundary that God has set and that the waters cannot pass over there may be a memory of the flood.

But God's provision of dry land also required the gift of water for the sustenance of life and so God made the springs to flow quenching the thirst of the animals, wild and domestic and the birds of the air. The water and land combine to produce the vegetation needed to feed the cattle, food and wine for humans, as well as oil and bread. Every part of God's creation has purpose. The trees provide sap and are a place for the birds to nest. The high hills

are for the goats and the cliffs for the rock badgers.

The moon and sun each do their work. The forests come alive at night with the beasts who then seek their prey (their food from God) . But when the sun rises, they return to the dens and sleep as man rises to do his work until the evening.

With his eyes wide open, the Psalmist sees the many ways that God has revealed Himself and the wisdom in them all. In the seas, there are innumerable teeming things both large and small. There are monsters of the deep but the ships sail all about them, having dominion over all just as God intended.

In all of life and in every aspect of creation there is continuous dependence upon the Lord. "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..."

Finally, the Psalmist contemplates the Lord's seventh day rest. He participates. "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live... may my meditation be sweet to Him..."