

Psalm 104:1–35 is a magnificent hymn of praise that celebrates God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It is a poetic survey of creation, filled with wonder at God's handiwork in nature. The psalm begins with a call to worship:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain" (Psalm 104:1–2, NKJV).

This passage paints a vivid picture: God, robed in light, stretching out the heavens like a curtain. The imagery is both majestic and intimate. Light represents purity, power, and the unapproachable glory of God (1 Timothy 6:16). When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," He echoed this divine radiance (John 8:12).

The psalmist continues,

"He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire" (vv. 3–4).

These verses emphasize God's authority over the elements and the spiritual realm. The clouds are His vehicle, the winds His path, angels His agents—swift, burning with zeal like flames of fire. We are reminded that nothing in creation lies outside His command.

"You laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away" (vv. 5–7).

This recalls the Flood (Genesis 6–9), when God covered the earth with water, and later commanded the waters to recede. He set boundaries for the seas so they would never again flood the whole earth (vv. 8–9). God remains in control, not only of the skies but also of the depths.

From there, the psalm transitions to God's provision for creation:

"He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field... He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works" (vv. 10–13).

God's provision is abundant. Animals find sustenance, birds nest in trees, and every part of the ecosystem is cared for. Even mankind receives blessing:

"He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart" (vv. 14–15).

God provides not only what is necessary for survival, but also what brings joy and strength. These gifts—wine, oil, and bread—reflect His generosity. In biblical imagery, they represent celebration, beauty, and nourishment.

"The trees of the LORD are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, where the birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high hills are for the wild goats; the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers" (vv. 16–18).

Every creature, from storks to wild goats, has a place in God's creation. He provides shelter and sustenance even for animals that dwell in the most rugged terrains.

"He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night, in which all the beasts of the forest creep about. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God... Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening" (vv. 19–23).

There is a divine rhythm to creation: night and day, labor and rest, predator and prey—all move according to God's design. The world operates with precision and harmony.

"O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions" (v. 24).

We live in a society increasingly disconnected from nature. Surrounded by concrete, screens, and noise, it's easy to lose touch with God's handiwork. The ancients lived close to the land. Their awareness of God's presence was shaped by skies full of stars, air that was clean, and daily interaction with the land and its creatures.

In our modern world, we must be intentional to rediscover that awareness. Take time to step outside. Travel to the mountains. Walk by a river. Let the beauty of creation revive your awe. It was designed not only to function but to inspire reverence and worship.

"This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; there is that Leviathan which You have made to play there" (vv. 25–26).

The sea, full of mystery and life, declares God's creativity. Leviathan—perhaps a poetic term for the whale or a now-extinct sea creature—moves through the waters as part of God's playful design.

"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" (vv. 27–28).

All creation is dependent upon the Lord. When He provides, they live; when He withdraws, they perish. This truth applies not only to animals but to us. Every breath we breathe is from Him.

"You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth" (vv. 29–30).

Life is a gift. The Spirit of God sustains it. Creation is renewed through the Spirit's ongoing work.

"May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in His works. He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke" (vv. 31–32).

God takes joy in what He has made. His glory is displayed through nature, and even the mountains respond to His presence. This power and majesty call us to reverence.

"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" (vv. 33–34).

This is the natural response to beholding the wonders of creation: worship. Praising God should not be a chore but the joyful overflow of a heart in awe.

"May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!" (v. 35).

The psalm ends with a plea for righteousness to prevail and a return to the opening call: *"Bless the LORD, O my soul!"* The wicked may thrive temporarily, but God's justice and glory will ultimately be revealed.

Personal Application:

- Take time to reflect on nature. Let the beauty of God's creation restore your sense of wonder.
- Remember that everything you have—breath, food, life—comes from God. Let gratitude fill your heart.
- Consider how your environment shapes your awareness of God. Find ways to connect with His works, whether in nature or in Scripture.
- Let worship and praise be a daily habit, not just a Sunday activity. If your soul is dry, open your eyes to the skies, to the trees, to the Creator behind it all.

Let your meditation be sweet, your song sincere, and your heart glad in the Lord who made all things in wisdom.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 104:35).