

EVERYTHING WE NEED Sunday, September 1, 2013

Unifying Topic: GOD CREATES

Lesson Text

I. The Lord Sets The World On Its Foundation (Psalm 104:5-9)

II. The Wisdom Of The Lord (Psalm 104:24-30)

The Main Thought: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. (Psalm 104:24, KJV).

Unifying Principle: All humans have some basic needs that must be supplied in order to sustain their daily lives. Where can Christians find a reliable source to assist them in acquiring what is needed? The palmist tells the reader that God's hands are full to overflowing with the resources needed by everything God created.

Lesson Aim: To acquaint students with the poetic, description of the creation of the world and the world as the Lord's temple in Psalm 104.

Life aim: To demonstrate that God continues to provide for His creation and establishes the order of creation through His wisdom.

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

104:6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

104:7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

104:8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

104:9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

104:24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

104:25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

104:26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

104:27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

104:28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

104:30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

HISTORY:

The author is anonymous appreciating God through His creation. The psalm shows familiarity with the Genesis creation story but has an originality of its own. The main theme is that the universe was created by and is totally dependent on the Creator! The 104th Psalm is a Psalm of the Creation of the world and everything in it.

Psalm 104:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Immediately, the keynote for the psalm is set. It begins and ends like the one which precedes it. A psalm that praises the Creator and His creation can only begin with the statement that the Lord is "very great." Therefore, "*Bless the Lord O my soul.*" Yet, this is a remarkable blending of faith and fear; the psalmist speaks the unspeakable name of Jehovah with holy reverence, and yet personalizes Jehovah by calling Him "*my God.*" The Creator is greater than the Creation. Therefore, the Creator is to be worshiped, not the Creation. Honor and majesty is His clothing, an awesome array!

104:2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:— For the next four verses, it begins with "Who." There is only one Creator for Creation! And He is covered with light. Light was the first thing created (Gen.1:3), before either the heaven (Gen.1:6-8) or the earth. Light—is a figurative representation of the glory of the invisible God and also the first work of Creation. Heaven is represented as a tent stretched out, with curtains drawn around it, to hide the dazzling and unapproachable light in which the Lord dwells. "Who"—it is God who has covered Himself with light as a garment and it is God who stretches Himself out the heavens like a curtain. The heavens is God's dwelling place (Ps.123:1b).

104:3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:— ¹The word here rendered "*layeth*" means properly to meet; or to fit into each other, as beams or joists do in a dwelling. It is a word which would be properly applied to the construction of a house. The word rendered

¹ <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/psalms/104-3.htm>

"beams" means "an upper chamber, a loft." It refers here to the chamber - the exalted abode of God - as if raised above all other edifices, or above the world. The word "waters" here refers to the description of the Creation in Genesis 1:6-7 - the waters "*above the firmament*," and the waters "*below the firmament*." The allusion here is to the waters above the firmament; and the meaning is, that God had constructed the place of His own abode - the room where He dwelt - in those waters; that is, in the most exalted place in the universe. It does not mean that He made it of the waters, but that His home - His dwelling-place - was in or above those waters, as if He had built His dwelling not on solid earth or rock, but the waters, giving stability to that which seems to have no stability, and making the very waters a foundation for the structure of His abode. God has chambers in the heavens. The foundations of the beams that are laid out are strong enough to hold the waters. Beams in the natural are for structural support. And I imagine beams in the spiritual are of strength to withhold God's habitation. In Genesis 1, the firmament that God made divided the waters. Only God makes the clouds the flooring of His chariot and moves upon the wings of the wind. He moves with ease in the heavens. "...he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" Acts 1:9.

104:4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:— Note the word "*make*", angels are made, that is, created and controlled by God. They are created spirits to serve God in the operation of the universe. God employs them to execute His purpose; sending them out as messengers or angels to do His will, just as wind and fire are used to serve God and man. God's ministers are flaming fire to accomplish His purpose as His ministers or servants. We see both are at the bidding of God who created them. They have always served God!

LESSON:

Psalm 104:5-9 Lord Sets The World On Its Foundation

104:5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. When you want to build something, you start with the foundation. The building is on top of any foundation. Based on the 3rd day in Genesis, God made the land and water distinct. God told the waters under the heaven to gather into one place in order to let the dry land appear. The dry land was called "*Earth*." Job said, "*God hung the earth upon nothing*"(Job 26:7b). The earth may shake; it may change, but the earth was built to last and shall not be removed forever, meaning shaken out of its place.

104:6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. A watery covering was spread at first over the whole earth, and enveloped it like a garment. This does not refer to the waters of the flood, when the earth was covered. The waters stood above the mountains from the beginning of the creation; since they were when the depths of water covered the unformed chaos. The highest unevenness of the land was concealed under the watery protective layer or covering.

104:7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. Yet it was not the design of Jehovah that the earth should remain in this condition, thus at the rebuke of God's voice, the waters fled—the waters shifted into the places established by God. ²The voice of God, especially when He speaks in "rebuke," is as thunder.

104:8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. At the command of God the waters go up by the mountains (the highest point) and down by the valleys (the lowest point) until it flowed exactly where it was intended to be; the purpose God established in their appropriate places. No mass is out of place!

104:9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. And there is a boundary that the waters shall not pass over. When God speaks, the waters shall obey and it will not cover the earth again because of the promise He has made. God allows it to flood in different areas and it can come from above or from below, but it shall not cover the whole earth. The same God that holds the waters in their place is the same God who is able to hold us together if we trust Him!

LESSON SKIPPED TO VERSE 24

Psalm 104:24-30 The Wisdom Of The Lord

104:24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. The psalmist says how diverse and many are the Lord's works. The method is by His wisdom. Creation is filled with stunning variety, revealing the rich creativity, goodness, and wisdom of our loving God. Just as His creativity with people, there are a diverse uniqueness of talents, abilities, and gifts given by God in His profound wisdom.

² <http://biblehub.com/psalms/104-7.htm>

104:25 So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. This corresponds to the 5th day of Creation (Gen.1:21). This is that collection of waters which God called seas. There are countless and inestimable measure of every kind of creeping creatures; the great beasts are living with the small.

104:26 There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. The ships that men sail over the sea; that go from place to place do not defile the Creation order. Leviathan is probably a poetic name for a whale, and is therefore one of the great sea creatures. Although, the word can be used for an enemy of God, this psalm joins the creation account in portraying the various creatures as subject to the Lord and not opposing Him. The Leviathan has this vast sea to play in as God's creations.

104:27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. All the creatures depend upon the Lord's provision, even the Leviathan. Each living thing on the land and sea (these all wait) depend on God to supply their food in due season. Psalm 74:14 says "*Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.*" The fiercest of creatures is no match for God who provides when it's needed or in its due season. As cattle have "grass," and lions "meat," from God, so every kind of animal receives from the same source its proper food. "...*Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat... Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap...*" Lk.12:22, 24.

104:28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. All God has to do is simply open His hand and creatures gather for their generous fill. They are filled and satisfied with good (whether spiritual or physical). All are gathered by the hand of faith. The whole of creation must recognize that, as it did not come into existence by itself and cannot maintain existence by itself.

104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. If God withdraws the light of His countenance from His living creatures, they are confounded. He who gave them breath, should He take away that breath, they die and return to dust; the dust from which they were formed. To hide His face is to withdraw favor.

104:30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. God sends forth His Spirit and all are created. By His spirit, or breath, or mere Word, He gives life. But our every breath depends on the Spirit of God breathed into us.³ Though one generation passes off, yet a new one is made in its place, and the face of the earth constantly puts on the aspect of freshness and newness.⁴ There are two creations really. God at first made man of the dust of the earth, and breathed the breath of life in him, and he became a living soul. The second birth is that of the spirit of man. God is actually creating each day. Creation as such is an ongoing thing.⁵ Other living creatures are produced. And thus by thy wise and wonderful providence thou preservest the succession of living creatures.

SUMMARY:

5-9 *God* set the earth firmly on its foundations, and it will never be moved. *He* placed the ocean over it like a robe, and the water covered the mountains. When *God* rebuked the waters, they fled; they rushed away when they heard *His* shout of command. They flowed over the mountains and into the valleys, to the place *He* had made for them. *God* set a boundary they can never pass, to keep them from covering the earth again.

24-30 *The Lord* have made so many things! How wisely *He* made them all! The earth is filled with *His* creatures. There is the ocean, large and wide, where countless creatures live, large and small alike. The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan, that sea monster which *God* made. All of them depend on *God* to give them food when they need it. *God* gives it to them, and they eat it; *He* provides food, and they are satisfied. When *He* turns away, they are afraid; when *God* takes away *His* breath, they die and go back to the dust from which they came. But when *God* gives them breath, they are created; *God* gives new life to the earth. *Good News Translation (GNT)*

APPLICATION:

God knowing everything we need brings it forth through creation. He deserves glorious praise.

³ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/15602/eVerseID/15602/RTD/Barnes>

⁴ <http://www.lovethelord.com/books/psalms/104.html>

⁵ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/15602/eVerseID/15602/RTD/JWN>

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>