

“Praise to Our Creator”
Psalm 104
(Preached at Trinity, May 20, 2012)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Psalm 104** serves as a companion to **Psalm 103**. Together they praise God as both Savior and Creator, Father and Sustainer. Derek Kidner wrote, “In the galaxy of the Psalter these are twin stars of the first magnitude.”
2. Many ascribe this psalm to David as with the previous psalm. To add weight to this argument the Septuagint also ascribes it to David. While we can’t be dogmatic, we also have no reason to reject this. David was a man with a heart to worship.
Psalm 7:17 KJV - "I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."
Psalm 8:1 KJV - "O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! "
Psalm 34:3 KJV - "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."
3. One of the chief sins of humanity is the sin of idolatry. Paul wrote:
Romans 1:20-23 NAS - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures."
4. Instead of worshipping the Creator lost humanity worships the creature.
5. This psalm opens with an expression of pure praise.
 - A. Like the previous psalm we find the psalmist engaging himself in self-talk.
"Bless the LORD, O my soul."
He is kindling the flames that burn in his bosom, flames that burn in the heart of every believer, flames that burst forth in praise and worship.
 - B. But on this side of glorification sin still plagues us. The sin of pride keeps us from bowing low before God. The sins of the flesh crowd out and put a cloud over our sight of the glory of God. The sin of neglect brings spiritual weakness upon us limiting our ability to enjoy the glorious things of the Spirit. Our neglect results in hardness of heart and soul.
 - C. In the imperative the Psalmist commands himself, "Bless the LORD, O my soul." Praise Him! Worship Him! Adore Him!
6. And then, as if to respond to his inner pleading, he cries out in worship:
"O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty."
7. Psalm 104 is a glorious psalm of praise to the Creator. It expels all thoughts of directing worship anywhere else. He alone is worthy of worship.
8. It can be divided in to three parts
 - I. **Verse 1** draws our attention to the glory and grandeur of the Creator

- II. **Verses 2-30** display the glorious work of the Creator
- III. **Verse 31-35** deliver the grand finale where we are once again reminded "Bless the LORD, O my soul."
- I. **Verse 1** draws our attention to the glory and grandeur of the Creator
In the second half of **Verse 1** we find the greatest expression of praise
"O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty."
- A. We find the expression of a covenant relationship - "O LORD my God"
1. He address God by the name that expresses the fulness of His being
O LORD - יהוה - The name that simply expresses the infinite nature of His divine essence – "I Am that I Am"
 - a. It means that God is Self-existing
God has His being in Himself
God had no beginning
All that God is comes from within Himself – He is fully self-sufficient. He does not have any unmet needs or unfulfilled desires. He is all in all to Himself.
 - b. God is the source of all being – God is the God that causes to be.
Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
This will be important in the remainder of this psalm
 2. But then David declares "My God"
 - a. On one hand we tremble at the name of Yahweh and then we embrace Him as a child embraces his father
 - b. David continually expressed this personal nearness to God. God was His God.
Psalm 5:2 KJV - "Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray."
Psalm 7:1 KJV - "O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust"
Psalm 18:2 KJV - "The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust"
- B. After calling upon the name of God, David begins to praise and adore Him
1. God you are great! "thou art very great"
 - a. David uses a word that means "exceedingly" or "in the highest degree." God is "exceedingly" great. He is infinitely great.
 - b. Do you ponder His greatness? "O my soul, God is exceedingly great."
 2. David continues: "thou art clothed with honour and majesty."
Psalm 104:1 NAU - "You are clothed with splendor and majesty,"
God is covered with splendor and majesty – it describes His magnificence.
- II. **Verses 2-30** display the glorious work of the Creator
- A. As David considers the mighty power and greatness of God his heart is turned to creation
1. Creation is one of God's greatest displays of Himself upon the earth
Psalm 19:1 KJV - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Romans 1:20 KJV - "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

2. **Psalm 104** is a worshipful journey through Genesis 1 taking us through each of the six days of creation.
 3. While many in this world glory in the theory of evolution that pretends that there is no Creator and no master plan **Psalm 104** reminds us that God is the Creator of all things. He alone is worthy of all praise.
- B. First Day: God created the light – **Verse 2**
1. Although David clearly has the Genesis creation account in mind all focus is upon God
 2. God said, “Let there be light” but there was nothing to emit the light. The light emanated from God Himself.
Psalm 104:2 KJV - "Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment"
1 John 1:5 KJV - "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."
- C. Second Day: God created the heavens – **Verses 2b-4**
1. This glorious God spoke and all things came into existence.
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
Psalm 104:2-3 KJV - "who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: ³ Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters:"
 2. The picture is of a God most active upon His creation.
“who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:"
God is pleased with His world. He rules over it. He enjoys it. We are to enjoy it also.
 3. **Verse 4** takes a peek into the inhabitants of heaven
Psalm 104:4 KJV - "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:"
- D. Third Day: God created the earth – **Verses 5-18**
1. **Verses 5-9** declare the power, authority, and sovereignty of God
He created the earth covered with water and then commanded the borders of the land and the boundaries of the water
 2. **Verses 10-18** describe God provision for His creation. He sends rain for the refreshment of the animals, waters the trees that become the habitation for the birds, waters the grass to feed the cattle, grapes to make the wine for the enjoyment of men.
 - a. Again, God is a good God that gives us good things to enjoy - **v15**
 - b. Man has perverted and abused God’s creation and has turned to idolatry, but God gives us all things to enjoy.
 - c. God’s goodness is displayed all over His creation.
- E. Fourth Day: God created the planets – **Verses 19-23**
1. God created the planets and ordered the days all by His perfect design

2. It was God who created the patterns of sleep and work. It was God who commanded 6 days of work and then the Sabbath
Do you see what a gift of His goodness this is – both our daily rest and our Sabbath’s rest?
- F. Fifth Day: God created the sea animals – **Verses 24-26**
1. David pauses to marvel at the wondrous works of God – **Verse 24**
He declares the vastness – How many, how countless are thy works.
All was made by the infinite wisdom of God. All belongs to Him.
 2. In **Verses 25-26** he declares the vastness of the sea and all that it contains-
The sea creatures great and small, the ships, even the leviathan, a great and fearsome sea creature probably extinct. Yet, what is fearsome to man is but a harmless pet to God. What kind of creatures reside in the ocean depths that we never see—but God does.
- G. Sixth Day: God created the animals and man – **Verses 27-30**
1. David sets his focus not on describing the creatures but upon God’s goodness in providing for them.
 2. Human beings are woefully sinful in failing to acknowledge God’s goodness.
Romans 1:21 KJV - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."
 3. **Verses 27-28** describe God as the great Provider giving all of His creation the food to sustain them. But He gives abundantly more:
Psalms 104:28 KJV - "thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good."
 4. Their life is in God’s hands:
 - a. If God restrains His gracious hand the earth falls into famine and drought
Psalms 104:29 KJV - "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled"
 - b. All owe their life to God
Psalms 104:29 KJV - "thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust."
 - c. Paul declared to the Athenian philosophers:
Acts 17:28 KJV - "For in him we live, and move, and have our being"
 5. **Verse 30** refers to the crowning touch upon God’s creation: He created man.
Psalms 104:30 KJV - "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created:"
 - a. The word for “breath” in **V.29** and the word for “spirit” is the same
 - b. The Divine Spirit breathed into us the breath of life. He is also the source of regeneration.
John 3:5 KJV - "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

- III. **Verse 31-35** deliver the grand finale where we are once again reminded "Bless the LORD, O my soul."
- A. These verses have been referred to as a Sabbath meditation
1. All focus is upon God. The glory of the Lord shines brightly upon all of creation.
 - a. There is no room here for the arrogant pride of man
Derek Kidner writes in his commentary:
A secularist's unspoken prayer might run: 'May the earth endure forever; may man rejoice in his works.'
 - b. The Christian worldview says:
Psalm 104:31 KJV - "The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works."
 2. God created everything in order to display His glory
Psalm 104:31 KJV - "The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever"
 3. God looks upon His creation and He is pleased. He rejoices in His creation
Psalm 104:31 KJV - "the LORD shall rejoice in his works."
 4. He rules over His creation with absolute authority and dominion
Psalm 104:32 KJV - "He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke."
- B. The result of these meditations by David is heartfelt praise and worship
1. **Verses 33-35** describe the heart of the one who knows God
Psalm 104:33 KJV - "I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live"
 2. There is no place for wickedness in such a glorious creation
Psalm 104:35 KJV - "Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more."
 3. The psalm ends as it began.

Conclusion:

1. The psalmist says God rejoices in His works. I rejoice in God.
2. May this be our heart. The whole world is given over to idolatry. They worship the creation rather than the Creator.
May we give ourselves continually to marveling at God; being overwhelmed at His glory.
May we continually give ourselves to considering the greatness and goodness of God.
Psalm 104:1 KJV - "Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty."
Psalm 104:35 KJV - "Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD."
Literally: הַלְלוּ־יְיָ הַלְלוּ־יְיָ Hallelujah