

MY VERY GREAT GOD!

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, thou art very great;
thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

Psalm 104:1

My Very Great God: Meditations from Psalm 104

by C. Young

The theme of Psalm 104 is the greatness of God. This Psalm tells many ways in which God is great.

Great in His Person - verses 1 and 2

"Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain."

God is the LORD, supreme, Ruler over all. He is very great. His clothing is honour and majesty. He covers Himself with light just as a person would cover himself with a garment. There is none that exceeds or even equals the greatness of the LORD. And the wonderful part of it is that He is my God.

Great in His Acts of Creation - verses 2 through 5

"²Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: ³Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: ⁴Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: ⁵Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. "

The Sky - v. 2

God stretches out the heavens like a curtain. We often put a curtain over a window. Sometimes we do this for privacy; at other times, it is to keep out cold or heat. In the morning, when the happy sun shines, we open the curtain and let in the golden beams of sunlight. When it becomes hot, or when darkness falls, we shut the curtain again, stretching it out to cover the whole width of the window. God sometimes does this with the clouds when He sends a storm. The edge of a storm front is often clearly defined. It comes rolling across the sky like a huge sliding curtain, blotting out the light and enveloping the world in grayness. As quickly as this cloud curtain closes, the great sliding curtain rolls away in the other direction, and the warm sun shines again.

Sometimes two storm fronts come together and meet in the middle, like two sliding curtains on the same rod. When we shut our curtains, there may be a clicking sound as the two curtains meet together. When God shuts His curtains, there is frequently a loud crash of thunder. It is fascinating to watch God's great curtains roll back again and see the blue sky appear.

Verse three says that God lays the beams of His chambers in the waters. God made chambers, or places in the clouds where the water can be stored until He is ready for it to fall. When God is ready for the rain to come down, *"He watereth the hills from his chambers,"* (verse 13) and the earth is satisfied.

The Clouds and the Wind

"Who maketh the clouds his chariot..." (See verse 3.) God rides upon the clouds. If we stepped out of an airplane and onto a cloud, it would not hold us up. We would plummet to the ground and die. But the clouds are God's chariot.

"... *Who walketh upon the wings of the wind.*" (See verse 3.) God walks on the wind as if it had giant wings to hold Him up. When a very strong wind blows, it can destroy houses and trees and terrify people. But, to God, it is simply a surface upon which to walk.

The Earth

This Psalm teaches that God made a strong and sturdy earth. He laid a foundation for it so that it would not be moved. (See verse 5.) It is certain. When we get up in the morning and walk out of the house, the ground is still there. The earth does not break up randomly and float aimlessly in all directions. The bodies of land all stay together. Within these bodies of land, people can build houses and other buildings and plant gardens. The land will not disintegrate and rise into the atmosphere or be sucked down into the center of the earth. God established the earth upon a firm foundation.

Great in His Power Over Nature - verses 6 through 9

"⁶Thou coveredst it [the earth] with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. ⁸They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. ⁹Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. "

God sent a flood upon the whole earth. (See Genesis 7.) The flood was so great that the waters covered the mountains. When God was ready for the flood waters to go away, He simply spoke, and they obeyed. He thundered with His voice, and the waters hasted away. With this great flood, God created streams that go up by the mountains and run down into the valleys, on to the place God founded for them. God also set boundaries for the waters that they cannot pass over. Rains may come, and floods may cause damage, but the rivers cannot pass over the boundaries God has set. The waters will never again return to cover the whole earth.

Great in His Design in Nature and Provision for Nature - verses 10-32

"¹⁰He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. ¹¹They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. ¹²By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. ¹³He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. ¹⁴He 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; ¹⁵And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. ¹⁶The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; ¹⁷Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. ¹⁸The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. ¹⁹He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. ²⁰Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. ²¹The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. ²²The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. ²³Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. ²⁴O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. ²⁵So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. ²⁶There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. ²⁷These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. ²⁸That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. ²⁹Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. ³⁰Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the

earth. ³¹*The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works. ³²He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke."*

Water

Springs flow through the valleys and run among the hills because God sends them. He has made them to give drink to every beast of the field. With water from these streams, the wild asses quench their thirst. The water causes trees to grow and flourish, and these trees provide homes for the birds which sing among the branches. When God is ready for the rain to fall, He waters the hills from His chambers that He has made in the clouds. The earth is satisfied and brings forth fruit because God has provided for it with His water.

Food

God causes grass to grow for the cattle. The lowly grass that grows so fast and must be mowed down or weeded from the garden has little use for us, except to make our lawns green. But it is food for cattle. It is the sustenance God has supplied for them. For man, God made herbs -- plants, such as spinach, to grow for food and other plants to use for medicine. Wine, or grape juice, was given by God to make people have a glad heart. Bread is God's gift to help man have a strong heart. God not only made provision for nutrition to keep the inside of the body well, but He also gave things such as oil to make man's face to shine. God cares about the outside of the body and its appearance as well as the health of the inside of the body.

God also supplies food for the wild animals. The young lions roar and seek their meat from God. The sea creatures wait upon God to give them their food. All that God gives them they gather. When God opens His hand to them, they are filled with good. When He hides His face from them, they are troubled.

Seasons of Labor and Cycle of Life

God has appointed the moon for seasons, and the sun marks days by its rising and setting. Darkness is the characteristic God has chosen to use to separate night from day. When darkness falls, all the beasts of the forest come out. When the sun rises, the lions and beasts of the forest all return to their homes. The lions gather themselves together and lay down in their dens. After the animals go to bed, man gets up. He works all day and returns to his rest in the evening.

The fish and other creatures of the sea also wait upon God. Sometimes, He opens His hand to them and fills them with good food. Sometimes, He hides His face from them and they are troubled. When God takes their breath away, they die and return to dust. God sends His spirit, and new fish and sea creatures are created. God is in control of all the creatures on the earth. He determines when they die, and He opens His hand of blessing when it is His time to renew the face of the earth. In God's hand is the cycle of life and death and new life for the earth, for man, for the birds, for the animals, and for all the fish and creatures of the sea.

The Glory of the LORD - verses 24 and 31

²⁴*O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. ³¹The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works."*

Worship - verses 33 - 35

³³I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. ³⁴My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD. ³⁵Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD. "

All the wonderful things described in this Psalm reveal the greatness and glory of God to me. This should fill my heart with awe. Out of my lips should burst forth songs of praise unto the LORD my God. These songs should fill my heart and lips all the days of my life. "*My meditation of him shall be sweet,*" and "*I will be glad in the LORD.*" This great and glorious God is my God. God will punish the wicked and consume sinners out of the earth. In a little while, they will be no more. But my soul will bless the LORD and praise Him while I have my being, for this great LORD is my God.

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