

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Psalm 104.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Psalm 104.

Topics.

- God is great! He is clothed with splendour and majesty, covered with light.
- God makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind.
- God set the earth on its foundations, the waters stood above the mountains.
- God created wine to gladden the heart and bread to strengthen man's heart.
- LORD, in wisdom you have made the earth full of your creatures.
- There go the ships, and leviathan, which you formed to play in it.
- When you hide your face, all living creatures are dismayed when they die.
- May God's glory endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.

INTRODUCTION: Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Book Four (Psalm 90-106)

God is Great! He is Clothed with Splendour and Majesty, Covered with Light.

Psalm 104:1-2 ----- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendour and majesty, ²covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

The apostle John in his letter tells us that the message the apostles heard from Jesus was that: -

- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5).

This is the reason fallen corrupted humans cannot dwell in the fullness of God's presence, our garment is a combination of light and darkness and darkness is destroyed when it enters light. This is why God appeared to Moses and the wilderness generation in a cloud of darkness and a pillar of fire.

Light: figuratively light speaks of truth, love and honesty it embraces everything that is good and right before God.

Darkness: figuratively darkness speaks of lies, deceit and violence it embraces everything that is wicked, evil and corrupt before God.

The LORD is clothed with splendour and majesty: (v1) it is, interesting to notice that no matter how many hundreds of millions of dollars Hollywood spends on alien movies, they cannot make a friendly alien that appeals in beauty to our human eyes as a human man or woman does, there is no living creature that is more attractive to the eyes of a man or woman than another man or woman.

The only other living beings that will stun the human eyes in beauty is the heavenly angelic host; the Lord Jesus Christ and the splendour and majesty of his heavenly Father the invisible, immortal, Almighty God the creator of all things and the source of all life all of these three will by far surpass any splendour and beauty our eyes have beheld in this fallen and mortal world.

God makes the Clouds His Chariot; He Rides on the Wings of the Wind.

Psalm 104:3-4 ----- ³He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; ⁴he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

God is pictured as a mighty warrior riding a chariot through the skies fighting on behalf of His people Israel. David in his Psalm wrote: -

- To him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. (Psalm 68:32-34).

God who rides in the ancient heavens carries the idea that God's laws, rules, statutes and ways, His love, mercy and grace are not something new, but go back to the beginning of time.

The following verses speak of chariots of God: -

- Behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. (Isaiah 66:15).
- Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD? Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation? ⁹You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. You split the earth with rivers. (Hab. 3:8).

God set the Earth on its Foundations, the Waters Stood above the Mountains.

Psalm 104:5-10 ----- ⁵He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved. ⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. ⁸The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them. ⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. ¹⁰You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills;

God established the globe of the earth and covered it with water during the flood in the days of Noah at God's command the mountains rose above the waters and the waters receded into the valleys forming the rivers, lakes and the seas. God placed boundaries around the seas refers to the sand of the seashore.

These verses shine a spotlight upon the truth that God is in control of all weather conditions, storms, floods and tornadoes etc. Certainly our scientists understand the natural laws that cause these things to happen, but it is God who set these natural laws that control our universe in place and who, is in control of them.

God waters the Mountains; the Earth is Satisfied with the Fruit of His Work.

Psalm 104:11-14 ----- ¹¹they (the rivers) give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹²Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. ¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. ¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth.

Again we see that though our scientist, understand the dynamics of our weather patterns, the forming of the rain rising from the oceans filling the clouds and watering the earth and such like things it is God who is outside of our laws of nature who is in control of them.

This is why Israel thanked God for the harvest even though they laboured in the field, planted the seed and cultivated it they understood that it was God who gave the rain and the sun and created the seed and the soil for it to grow in.

God created Wine to Gladden the Heart and Bread to Strengthen Man's Heart.

Psalm 104:15-18 ----- ¹⁵and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart. ¹⁶The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. ¹⁷In them (the trees) the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. ¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

Many churches (especially in the past) have taught that drinking alcohol is a sin before God, but here David clearly shows drinking alcohol is not forbidden, in fact according to David God made it for man to enjoy. It is the excess of alcohol the Bible warns against, not the total abstinence, unless you are a priest who is going to minister in the LORD'S sanctuary, temple or church, naturally any alcohol in these circumstance would be forbidden and foolishness.

Certainly the Scriptures gives many warnings of drinking an excess of alcohol because of the sinful behaviour it can lead to (i.e., lack of moral fortitude, drunken driving and violence etc.), but having a social drink or a drink after a hard day's work is not a sin. Though drinking alcohol is not a sin in-itself, it can lead to many sins, this is why the Bible gives many warnings of drinking an excess of it. Since it does have the potential to lead to addiction for some and sin for others it is obviously better to abstain altogether, nevertheless those who do drink in moderation cannot be accused of committing any sin.

The cedars of Lebanon that he planted: (v16) the extensive cedar forests of Lebanon thrived across Mount Lebanon in ancient times. Their timber was used by the Phoenicians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians and Persians. The wood was prized by the Egyptians for ship building the Ottoman Empire also used the cedars in railway construction because of their strength and resistance to pests, disease and rot. The age of these trees is not measured by years, but by generations and ages since they are enormously strong in endurance.

They are immensely large, some being about fourteen metres in their width, and about thirty-five metres in the spread of their branches. They flourish for ages, and are always green. When they are cut down they yield a most beautiful kind of wood that is solid and durable and when compared to the trees around them they are almost incorruptible. The cedars of Lebanon are a beautiful picture of the faithful in the world. Especially when it is considered that as one looks with the eyes upon the forest of Lebanon the cedars stand out as the splendour and beauty of the forest, likewise when God look down upon earth the faithful are to His eyes its glory, its beauty and its splendour.

O LORD in Wisdom You have Made the Earth Full of Your Creatures.

Psalm 104:19-24 ----- ¹⁹He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. ²⁰You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about. ²¹The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. ²²When the sun rises, they steal away and lie down in their dens. ²³Man goes out to his work and to his labour until the evening. ²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

This Psalm shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth everything lives according to the design of God's creation. Here is the reason the faithful of the Old Testament worshipped God regardless of whether they were in a time of joy and rejoicing or a time of grief and sorrow. Their worship was not dependent upon their circumstances, but upon the truth that God is the Almighty Holy God the creator of all things and as such was forever worthy of praise regardless of what was happening in their lives and on earth. Both Job and Habakkuk (as did all the faithful of the Old Testament) had this same great faith. Even though Job suffered great affliction his attitude was: -

- Though he slays me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).

Habakkuk begins his prayer saying, “Even though his body trembles at the power of the LORD and he feels weak and feeble because of the enemies who are coming to invade his land, he will quietly wait for the day of trouble.” He then ends his prayer with the following great words of faith.

- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Hab. 3:17-19).

David, Job and Habakkuk made the LORD their fortress and refuge by making him their greatest love, their best thought and the passion of their heart and mind and rested in the knowledge that if everything fails in this life they would be raised to be with the Lord in eternal glory where happiness everlasting dwells and while living in this life rested in the confidence and faith that the Lord was with them by his Spirit, his love and his grace.

A personal note: I have seen a man born with no legs and no arms, who to the natural mind would appear a mistake made by God, but this man lived his life before God worshipped him and kept a right attitude as did David, Job and Habakkuk. He is an amazing testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and went on to become one of the world's greatest motivational speakers. He is an encouragement to hundreds of thousands of people who are suffering their own difficult circumstances.

I have heard testimonies of teenage girls who have suffered absolute horror, terror and abuse find the love of God and go on to become the source of comfort to many hurting girls in similar circumstances and help them live a life of mental and emotional freedom and joy. We may not all reach hundreds of people, but if we take the right attitude to difficult circumstance we can all be an amazing testimony to God and to those who know us. While on this side of eternity no-one is exempt from trouble and difficulty, it is the attitude and who we go through it with that makes the difference. God does not promise freedom from trouble but He does promise comfort, love and strength to cope and grow from it.

There Go the Ships, and Leviathan, which you Formed to Play in It.

Psalm 104:25-28 ----- ²⁵Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. ²⁶There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. ²⁷These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. ²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

Leviathan: comes from the Hebrew word (*livyathan*) it can refer to a wreathed animal, a serpent, a crocodile or some other large sea-monster and figuratively to the constellation of the dragon or as a symbol of Babylon. The Bible says leviathan is a king over all the children of pride (Job 41:34) therefore it seems more likely that the title, leviathan is symbolic of something that is common to every man and woman and has power throughout all nations of the world.

This means that the word leviathan could simply be a symbol of sin and every aspect of it and especially of fear, pride and death. It seems hardly likely God would focus so much Scripture upon a crocodile or some other natural fearful animal creature. As we travel through Scriptures that speak of leviathan it seems more likely that leviathan is, a personification of sin, pride, fear and death personified as a fearful creature that no human can control since sin and everything that flows from sin especially pride and the destructive power of death have control and power over every man and woman living on earth.

For further information on Leviathan see the title: -

- Leviathan in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

When You Hide Your Face, all Living Creatures are Dismayed when they Die.

Psalm 104:29-30 ----- ²⁹When you hide your face, they (all living creatures) are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

The expression, "when God hides His face," is the same as saying when God withdraws his blessing and His hand of favour. When God does this humanity, the animals, the birds and every living creature and all creation suffer, because everything begins to decay, rivers dry up, weather conditions are violent, and fields do not produce. In contrast to this when God sends forth His Spirit not only is all humanity, the animals and all living creatures blessed, but so too is all creation because it blossoms, rivers flow, gentle rains fall and fields produce their crops and livestock multiplies. The more mankind rejects God and follows the way of the flesh and sin the more God hides His face and the more God hides His face the more our planet and all living life upon it suffers.

May God's Glory Endure Forever; May the LORD Rejoice in His Works.

Psalm 104:31-35 ----- ³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works, ³²who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! ³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. ³⁴May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. ³⁵Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The Psalmist prays, "**May the LORD rejoice in his works,**"(v31) since the only living creatures that sin are humans I suspect one of the main thoughts behind this prayer is, "May God find men and women on earth that live their life faithful before him so that He may rejoice in his works."

Who touches the mountains and they smoke: (v31) clearly this is an allusion to God descending upon Mount Sinai, but it can also refer to powerful volcano's erupting and spewing out flames of fire, clouds of smoke and dust that affects people living miles away from the erupting mountain.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth: (v31) this of course would especially apply to those who deny God's existence, are corrupt and especially to those who aggressively persecute those who faithfully follow the Lord.

When the Psalmist ponders the majesty and the wonders of creation he is humbled especially when he considers all God has to do to cause the earth to tremble (by the power of earthquakes and such like things) and the mountains to erupt with fire and smoke is to glance at our planet. When he considers such awesome and breathtaking power and his own mortality his only response is to sing and praise God as long as he lives.

End.