

Evening Sermon Outline – May 23, 2021
“Bless the LORD, continued ...” Psalm 104

This Psalm does not have David’s signature on it, but of all of those which don’t, this seems one likely to be his. It follows Psalm 103; not only in order but it continues that Psalm’s theme ... if not David’s Psalm, maybe Solomon’s perhaps he builds on his father’s masterpiece and uses some of his God-given wisdom?

No matter who wrote this, let us bless the LORD!

I. Here is the repeated self-commandment -

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul! Psalm 104:1 A

Here are more reasons for blessing the LORD!

II. His greatness is seen in the Heavens –

¹ ... O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, ²Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. ³He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, ⁴Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. Psalm 104:1B - :4

III. His greatness is seen in His condescension to care for the earth, and its creatures, including human beings, and in the wonderful ways He accomplishes this –

1. God’s care is seen in the stability He has given the earth -

⁵ You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever, ⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. ⁷At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. ⁸They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them. ⁹You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth.

2. God’s care is seen in the specific provision He makes for every creature –

A. Drinks for the animals -

¹⁰ He sends the springs into the valleys; They flow among the hills. ¹¹ They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. Psalm 104:10-11

B. Homes for the birds in the branches of trees -

¹² By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. Psalm 104:12

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted, ¹⁷ Where the birds make their nests; The stork has her home in the fir trees. Psalm 104:16-17

C. Water to grow grass for cattle and vegetables for us –

¹³ He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. ¹⁴ 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, Psalm 104:13-14

D. He gives us wine, purely for our enjoyment and bread for our strength -

¹⁵ And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man’s heart. Psalm 104:15

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted, ¹⁷ Where the birds make their nests; The stork has her home in the fir trees. ¹⁸ The high hills are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers. Psalm 104:5-18

The trees of the LORD are hearty and strong, in His place, under His care – see Psalm 1:3.

IV. His greatness is seen in creation’s purpose, order, variety and beauty –

1. The sun moon and stars are clocks and calendars for us

¹⁹ He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down. Psalm 104:19

See Genesis 1:14-19

2. *Many creatures are night creatures –*

²⁰ **You make darkness, and it is night, In which all the beasts of the forest creep about. Psalm 104:20**

3. *The lions are powerful hunters, yet still dependent upon God –*

²¹ **The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God.**
²² **When the sun rises, they gather together and lie down in their dens. Psalm 104:21-22**

4. *Human beings have their work as well, but it is a daytime thing -*

²³ **Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening. Psalm 104:23**

5. *Looking all around him, the Psalmist is amazed at the wonders of God's glorious creation –*

A. *These things are all God's creation –*

²⁴ **O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.**

God's works are manifold, meaning many and various and they go beyond even what is stated in this Psalm, for instance there is no mention of an elephant ...

“The elephant comes with a tramp, tramp, tramp! The elephant comes with a stamp, stamp, stamp! Through the forest and over marshy ground, his great big feet pound and pound, with a rumpety-dumpety-crumpety sound. See here is a tangle of maidenhair, among the pandemus spikes down there; and right through the middle of it, he's trampled just as he saw fit, with a blunderly – wondrousy -dunderly wit. A fool, do you think? No, he's no fool! Look at that track, it leads to a pool, and on to a shady place, where he can fan his beautiful face, with a jungelly-tumbelly-scrumbelly grace.”

Amy Carmichael

This poem, combined with this Psalm made me think of symbiosis.

B. *They also belong to Him, they and we are His possessions –*

The earth is full of Your possessions—

C. *Both land and sea, both big and small, all are God's –*

²⁵ **This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. ²⁶ There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. Psalm 104:25-26**

6. *All creatures are dependent upon Him –*

²⁷ **These all wait for You, That You may give them their food in due season. ²⁸ What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. ²⁹ You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰ You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. Psalm 104:27-30**

V. *May the glory of the LORD endure forever, it will –*

³¹ **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; May the LORD rejoice in His works. ³² He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke. ³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. ³⁴ May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD. Psalm 104:31-34**

VI. *God's glory ultimately means the destruction, the judgment of sin and sinners, Praise the LORD! Hallelujah!*

³⁵ **May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD! Psalm 104:35 (NKJV)**

³⁵ **May sinners vanish from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, my soul! Hallelujah! Psalm 104:35 (NABRE)**

19 *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! ² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” ³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” Revelation 19:1–3 (NKJV)*

Arnold Brevick