



10/13/25

One of the things that really impacted me from the message yesterday was that God's love for us means He gives us both freedom and boundary. To worship Him is to enjoy the freedom we have in Him while we live within the boundaries He's set for us. And we can be sure that the boundaries God places in our lives are not to withhold His goodness from us, but to protect us. He's a perfect, loving Father.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalms 104:1-15 ~

I don't know if Psalms 103 and 104 were written close together, but they're placed side by side in the book of Psalms... and both psalms start and end with the same call... "Bless the Lord, O my soul." Any time the psalmist speaks of blessing the Lord, he gives a reason for his worship. Psalm 103 focused on blessing Him for who He is toward me. Psalm 104 speaks to His greatness in creation. If I don't acknowledge Him as Creator, I have to remove tons of scripture. But when I truly acknowledge Him as Creator, worship will spill out from my soul.

Vs. 1-4 ~ Bless Yahweh, O my soul. He is unique and personal... not just personally invested in my life, but personally invested in ALL life. He is Yahweh Elohim... the all powerful, personal God. He is great, magnified. And He is clothed with splendor and majesty. What do I see when I look at the Lord? Splendor and majesty, honor and beauty and glory. Who else could be defined with these characteristics at all times of every day?

He clothes Himself with light... His light stretches out like the heavens... This tells me that God is huge and His light cannot be overcome by any darkness. The waters hold the beams of His chambers. He rides in on the clouds, on the wings of the wind. Every description of Him is higher than man in power, wisdom, splendor, glory, and majesty. He is worthy of worship.

The Hebrew word for wind is the same word used for spirit. So... the wings of the Spirit carry

Him. His messengers are also winds... spirits... like a flame of fire. Whoa... in Acts 1, when the Holy Spirit came in power, He came to the disciples with flames of fire resting on them. This is POWERFUL. My personally invested, powerful God brings His Spirit in power. Bless the Lord.

Vs. 5-9 ~ This God of splendor and majesty set the earth on its foundations. It revolves around the sun, and it is not moved off of its orbit path. In the thousands of years since the Lord spoke the world into existence, the earth has not been moved from its orbit. God is in control!

The Lord covered the earth with the deep waters... so that they even covered the mountains. But God spoke and the waters obeyed so that the mountains rose, the valleys sank to their appointed places, and the waters stayed within their boundaries. This sounds like the beginning of time... when the waters covered the earth AND it also sounds like the flood with Noah's ark. I think this must be talking about the flood because, after God rebuked the waters, they were told to stay within their boundaries "so that they might not again cover the earth." So... not only do I need to believe that God created the earth, I also need to believe that Noah and the Ark is a true story. Truly, if God can speak the world into existence, why would I question anything else His word says?

I see how God's love for His creation is seen in freedom and boundaries by this command to the waters. The boundaries He set in place were for our protection, so that we wouldn't face another flood... and He gave us freedom to enjoy His creation that He continues to protect even in its futility.

Vs. 10-13 ~ God knows the living creatures He places on this earth need water, so He provided everything they need. He meets needs in places that man can't even see. Valleys have springs that gush and flow between the hills. No irrigation system can match His provision. He provides drinks for every beast of the field and wild donkeys, wherever they are. He knows what every single animal in all creation needs, and He provides for their needs.

He takes care of the valleys down low, and He takes care of the mountains up high. He provides for the birds up high where they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains so that all who dwell in them can have their thirst quenched. God is able to satisfy all beasts and birds and the whole earth with the fruit of His own work... Everything He provides is good and pleasant. It is beautiful. It nourishes. It satisfies.

Vs. 14-15 ~ The Lord provides for the needs of the land. He provides for the needs of the beasts and birds. He provides grass for the livestock. And He provides plants for man to cultivate, to serve and take care of.

The purpose God gives man as His image bearer is good. His purpose glorifies God and satisfies man. God allows me to have a purpose... to help cultivate what He has given. The Hebrew word for cultivate means "to serve." And just like the earth is satisfied with the fruit of God's work, God allows man's service to bear fruit as well. That is His gift to us. He provides me with purpose. He provides me with what I need to fulfill that purpose. He allows my work to bear

fruit.

He allows me to bring food from the earth, wine to gladden my heart (or tea to gladden my heart), oil to make my face shine, and bread to strengthen my heart. These are all things God provides for His priests! Wine was used to celebrate Passover. Oil was used for anointing. Bread was used before God in the temple as a symbol of God's provision. I see this in Jesus as well. The wine represents His blood poured out for me to make my heart glad. Isaiah 61:3 says He gives me the oil of gladness, which makes my face shine with eternal hope. He is the bread of life which strengthens my heart. That is really cool. He gives me purpose, but He is at the center of everything. His glory is always for my good. My good will always bring Him glory.

It is so beautiful. The one with splendor and majesty generously provides for every part of His creation. Psalm 145:15-16 says, "The eyes of all look to YOU, and YOU give them their food in due season. YOU open YOUR hand; YOU satisfy the desire of every living thing." O Lord, You provide us with everything we need. You don't withhold good. You generously provide it. You are intimately involved with every millimeter of Your creation. Nothing is forgotten or ignored. What do I take from this to apply to my life? Trust Your power. Worship You for your splendor and majesty. Believe that with as huge as You are, You are still intimately involved with every part of Your creation... including me. Bless the Lord, O my soul!