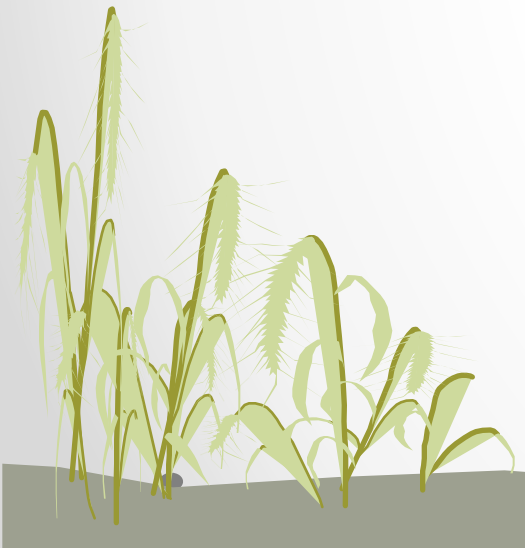
Nature Psalms

Bible Survey 3





Facts on the book of Psalms

- The Entire Bible is contained in the Psalms.” -Martin Luther
- The longest book in the Bible
- The most referred OT book in the New Testament

Some Nature Psalms:

8, 19, 29, 33, 65, 104, 148

Great Hymns

- Some great hymns turn our minds toward nature and incline our hearts to praise and worship God.

How Great Thou Art	Great is Thy faithfulness
• When through the woods and forest glades I wander • And Hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; • When I look down from loft mountain grandeur • And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze • Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee	• Summer and Winter and spring time and harvest • Sun, moon and stars in their courses above • Join with all nature in manifold witness • To thy great faithfulness mercy and love

Contemporary Music?

- Most are simply romantic.
- John Lennon wrote a song he called Imagine which rejects God.
- He imagines there is no heaven and hell, and all people living in peace.
- He imagines a brotherhood of men, while rejecting the fatherhood of God.

Psalmists approach to Nature

- Peasant society – close to the land. Everyone intensely aware of weather, soil, water.
- With no large cities or towns, there was not the contemporary sense of 'country' as opposed to 'city', so the nature poetry was as much utilitarian as poetic.
- They did not have modern technology and knew little scientifically. Still, these psalms are the inspired word of God
- The nature psalms use poetic language to express religious truth.

***Utilitarian - designed to be useful or practical rather than attractive.**

The Highly imaginative Psalmist

Psalm 19, Psalm 29, Psalm 104

- The thunder was the sound of God's voice
- The lightening was the flash of God's eye
- The hot and strong wind was the hot breath of his mouth
- The earthquake was the tread of his feet on the mountains
- The volcano was the fierce wrath of his nostrils
- The bright light was his apparel
- The winds were His messengers and His ministers were flaming fires





How Majestic is Your Name in all the earth!







Psalm 8

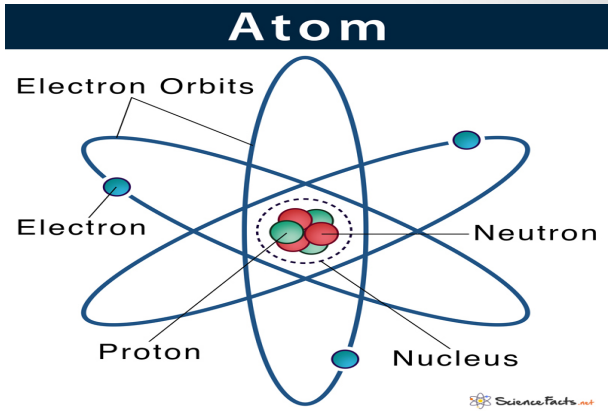
- The psalmist was amazed at God's creation.
- The Heavens are the light work of His fingers!
- His living world in the land, earth and sky is amazing!
- He then wonders, why does God care for Man? He made Man rule over His creation!
- He ends up by being amazed again! How Majestic is Your Name in all the earth!

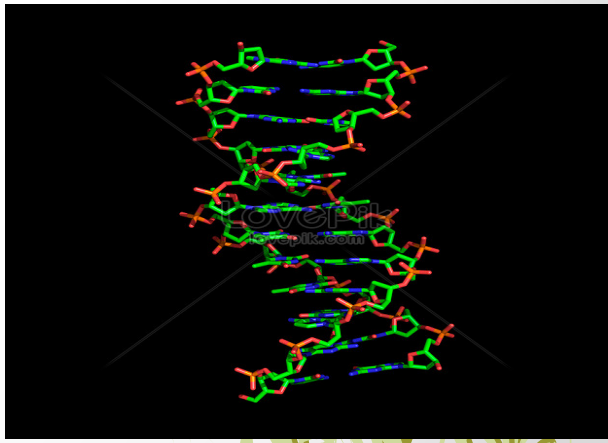
How Majestic is Your Name in all the earth!

Psalm 8

- Today we can see the heavens much further than the psalmists could see!
- Today we know much more about matter than the psalmists ever knew!
- Today we know much more about life than the psalmists ever knew!
- The more we know about nature, the more amazed we are! Not less, but more amazed!!
- We still can only say, How Majestic is Your Name in all the earth!







God created nature

Psalm 24: 1-2 -- The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers.

Psalm 33:6-9 -- By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

God Reveals himself through nature and His Word

Psalm 19

- General Revelation (His finger prints are all over his work)
  - Whether day or night – God is revealed
  - Whether or not there are observers – God is revealed
  - Whether are not there is human response – God is revealed

- Special Revelation
  - 9 Characteristics of God's word
    - perfect, sure (v7);right, pure (v8), clean, eternal, true, altogether righteous (v9), sweeter than honey(v10)
  - 6 Blessings of the word of God
    - Restores/converts the soul (v7)
    - Makes wise the simple (v7)
    - Rejoices the heart (v8)
    - Enlightens the eyes (v8)
    - Warns the servant (v11)
    - Rewards the obedient (v11)

- Rom 1:20 Men may deny it, but His invisible attributes, and divine nature are clearly seen! Men know!

God Sustains and Controls His creation

- Psalm 29 The psalmist describes a mighty thunderstorm.
- It rises in the west over the Mediterranean sea.
- Breaks in full fury over the mountains of Lebanon north of Israel
- It breaks cedars there
- It thunders southward down the length of Israel
- It shakes the wilderness of Kadesh, south of Israel
- It makes deer give birth!

God Sustains and Controls His creation

- Psalm 33 He made the world and all that it is in it.
- 13-17: He is watching over the world that He has made
- 18-19: But His eye, His special regard, is for those who fear Him.
- Have you been to a playground, with your child, and seen all the little children playing in there?
- You are watching all the little kids.
- But your eye, your special regard, is on your little one!
- So also the Lord! His special regard is for those who fear Him.

God sustains and Controls His creation

- Psalm 65:9-13 He prepares streams to flow through the earth
- The streams water furrows with grain
- The grain grows and God blesses the growth
- He causes the farms to yield food
- He causes the flocks to yield livestock
- They all grow and thrive and bless God's people!

God sustains and Controls His creation

- Psalm 104 He made the heavens and the clouds
- He made the seas and the mountains
- He made springs in the valleys
- He made the living world
- He made wild donkeys and goats and the birds of the heavens
- He provided them with grass for food
- And vegetation, oil, wine and food for man
- He made the young lions and beasts of the forest
- The psalmist ends up with praising the Lord!
- The psalmist prays that his meditation may be pleasing to the Lord!

God Employs Nature as His Servant to Achieve His Purposes

- God employed the forces of nature in the worldwide flood:
- God employed nature both to bless His people for their faith and obedience, and to curse them for their rebellion.
- As the Protector of His people, God employed the forces of nature to defeat the enemies of Israel.




Nature Praises God

- Psalm 65:13 - The meadows are clothed with flocks and the valleys are covered with grain; they shout for joy, yes, they sing.

- Psalm 19:1-3 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

- Luke 19:40 - But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!”

Entire creation praises God

Psalm 148

The heavens and heavenly beings shall praise Yahweh

1 Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!

The heavenly bodies and the highest heaven shall praise Yahweh

3 Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all stars of light!
4 Praise Him, highest heavens,
And the waters that are above the heavens!

Praise the creator

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.
6 He has also established them forever and ever;
He has made a decree which will not pass away.

Sea creatures shall praise and the weather shall obey Yahweh

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
Sea monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds;
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

The land and living things shall praise Yahweh

9 Mountains and all hills;
Fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Beasts and all cattle;
Creeping things and winged fowl;

All people shall praise Yahweh

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples;
Princes and all judges of the earth;
12 Both young men and virgins;
Old men and children.

Praise for Yahweh who has honored His people

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For His name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.
14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people,
Praise for all His godly ones;
Even for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him.
Praise the LORD!

- God's Word creates, establish and fulfills His will.
- God does not run this world by consensus but by decree. His Word is sufficient to guide our lives.

Something to really Imagine!

- Remember John Lennon's song Imagine? Well we have something much better to Imagine!
- This is a fallen universe, marred by sin! Yet it in it we see the beauty and wonder of His creation! One day we will be in an amazing new universe, without sin!
- Is it even possible to imagine the sinless universe that the Lord has destined for us?
- 1 Cor 2:9 "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."
- Fallen man has reached the planets, maybe the new man will reach the stars!
- We will also be healed of all of our diseases.
- And more than that, we will tangibly be in His Presence!