

Psalm 104

Today's Psalm is another Psalm of praise, geared towards understanding and celebrating God's work of provision for His creation. The Psalm is one that is meant to be understood more on a macro level. The point is not to drill down on any one specific verse (although there is value in each word), the point is to see in all the things mentioned, God's Wisdom and provision for His creatures. The argument then is one from the lesser to the greater, if God cares for the ground and the creatures of the sea and land, then He surely will take care of us. Let us consider 3 ways that God's work of creation and sustenance lead to praise:

1. We praise God for His wisdom in creation
 - a. The complexity of this world is astounding
 - b. Consider for a moment the sheer reality that you are living and cognizant, right now
 - i. Do you know how much needs to be operating correctly for you to simply breathe?
 1. Your lungs must function, your heart must beat, your blood must flow through your vascular system
 2. In all these things, we see evidence of a wise designer
 3. God has intricately, and masterfully, made the human body
 - c. Consider for a moment, the diversity in God's creation
 - i. God made both the ant and the anteater
 - ii. He created the elephant and the prairie dog
 - iii. He made the blowfish and the whale
 - d. In all these things, we get a glimpse of the matchless imagination, wisdom and power of our great God and this should lead to our praise of Him
2. We praise God for His power to sustain what He has made
 - a. It is one thing to make a human being or an antelope, it is another to continue to sustain their environment
 - b. The Bible says that Christ "upholds the universe by the Word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3)
 - c. It is God who sees to it that night returns so that the nocturnal animals can thrive
 - d. It is God who sees to it that the seasons continue to change, as they always have (as much as the climate change activists despise it)
 - e. It is God who sees to it that temperatures are regulated for our existence and that seas continue to stay in their bounds
 - f. In all these things, God is sustaining what He has made and this should give us confidence and yet another reason for worship
3. We praise God for His faithfulness in providing for each individual creation
 - a. There is a heresy called "deism"
 - b. Deism is the idea that God intricately made creation and, some deists would claim that He even sustains it from a distance, but deists would deny that God has any involvement in the details of the lives of His created beings
 - c. This is flatly false

- i. God does not merely sustain the universe, God ensures that all of His beings receive the sustenance they need
- ii. He causes rain to fall on the fields so that the farmer's crop grows, the fish in the pond has enough water in which to live and the grass doesn't wither
- iii. He is cognizant of the raccoon that needs his next meal and, more importantly, He is aware of you!

4. Application

- a. The point then is that creation is a living, breathing testimony of the character of God
- b. When we see the green grass, when we feel our heartbeat, when we marvel at the size of the bass or consider the diversity of the woods just behind our house, we are being shown something of the character of the God we serve
- c. Jesus made this connection for us this way: "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." -Matthew 6:25-34