

## **THE JOY IN CREATION**

### **PSALM 104: 31-35**

Introduction:

Accept the message of this psalm, and the world around you will never look the same again! What we call the world of nature is actually the “work of the Lord.” It is a creative expression of something deep in the nature of the eternal God. Man and his world exist because it pleased God to create.

The psalmist sat for a long time with a copy of Genesis 1 and 2 in his hand. He allowed his mind to picture the events of the seven days of creation. He began with Sunday and ended with the Sabbath. The whole scene came alive in his mind as he thought. This psalm is a record of his meditation that day. He came away from his meditation with an abiding impression that everything in the world owes its existence to God, and thus everything belongs to God. This includes all human beings. He came away with a profound sense of the wisdom of God that is manifest in the way God put it all together into what modern man calls an ecological system. The ecologist has just discovered the wisdom of the Creator, though they are usually slow to acknowledge it.

He is also impressed with continuing work of God in the created order. The God who made the world continues to preserve the world by His Spirit.

“You send forth your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” Modern man is almost universally blind to the spirituality of the natural world. He fails to see the faithful activity of God in the preservation of what He has made.

However the big surprise of the psalm is the introduction of joy into the creation history. You expect wisdom and power when you are reading of the creative work of God—but joy! Movingly the psalmist concludes his meditation on the creation with uplifting words about the joy of God and the joy on man in creation. We need to explore this lest we miss something very basic about ourselves and the world in which we live.

#### I. GOD ENJOYS THE CREATION. (v. 31-32)

In the praise that closes the psalm, we find God rejoicing in what He has made, and man rejoicing in the one who made him and his world. There is a note of joy in the whole of creation. This section of the psalm probably parallels the seventh day of creation in which God rested and enjoyed what He had made.

1. God enjoys the manifestation of His glory in Creation.

The psalm opens with recognition that God has clothed himself in the creation. On the first day of creation, God said let there be light, and there was light. “You are clothed with honor and majesty, who covers yourself with light as with a garment, who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.”

When the eyes of man are opened, he will see the glory of God in the light and warmth of the sun. In fact he will see manifestations of the power and goodness of God wherever he turns in the creation.

The psalmist uses his mind to climb the mountains, to stand by the sea, to observe the lifestyle of the animals of the forest, the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air. In each of them he beholds the goodness and faithfulness of God—which is the actual manifestation of the glory of God. It is always a joy to the Creator to manifest His glory!

## 2. God enjoys the expression of His wisdom in Creation.

“O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You made them all.”

Man knows that the joy of acquiring wisdom is found in an opportunity to share it. God did not acquire wisdom since He is eternally full of wisdom, but creation did give Him an opportunity to display His wisdom.

## 3. God enjoys the exercise of His sovereignty over creation.

Since He is the Creator, He is the owner of all things. “The earth is full of Your possessions.” Since they are all His possessions, they are under His

sovereign command. And the beautiful thing is that the creation responds to His sovereign command. He uses the “clouds” for a chariot, and walks on the wings of the wind. The waters of the deep tremble and flee at his command. The moon and the sun gladly fulfill their assignment in the universe. The only place the Creator encounters any resistance to His sovereign rule is His highest creation—humankind.

When He just looks at the earth in anger it trembles, or touches a mountain it becomes a volcano. It is an abiding satisfaction to the Creator to rule over what He has made. His only sorrow comes from the resistance of people like us.

#### 4. God enjoys the joy of His creation.

There is an interesting note in verse 26 about Leviathan, the monster of the sea. “And there is that Leviathan which you made to play there.” “Play” could be translated “sport.” God made the sea as a place where all forms of life could live, where ships could sail from place to place, and as a place where the big whale could play.

Have you ever been whale watching? Alice and I have been privileged to see them a couple of times, once off of the coast of Maui. To the eye of humans standing on the shore they appear to be having fun just playing in the deep ocean—while their Creator watches with pleasure.

But He watches with even greater pleasure when His highest creation comes into a place of worship with a song of gladness and praise on his lips. This is the fulfillment of His purpose in His creation. He created the world for His own joy. You are the potential joy of the one who made you.

## II. MAN ENJOYS THE CREATOR. (v. 33-35)

“May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord.”

### 1. Personal knowledge of the Creator creates the gladness.

One of the things that set humans apart from the rest of creation is their capacity to have a personal knowledge of their Creator. All of the spiritual gladness of man flows out of this knowledge of the Lord. This psalm is the testimony of a man who has come to know the Creator and His ways.

### 2. The worship of the Creator expresses the gladness.

“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.”

### 3. The pleasing of the Creator enriches the gladness.

“May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD.”