

Daily Encouragement – Thursday 16th July

Psalm 104

The first and last verse are the same as the first and last of Psalm 103 - we are still encouraging ourselves with yet more reasons to praise God.

Remember that Psalm 102 felt like Job complaining about his miserable situation: this Psalm mirrors God's response to Job, describing the wonders of the world God made.

Gen 1 is a day by day account of creation.

Job 38-42 is God showing his power and wisdom in creation to help Job to trust him absolutely. This Psalm is an exuberant song of praise, celebrating creation in joyful, exciting and uplifting poetry and music.

1 Praise the Lord, my soul.

The starting point is God himself, his greatness
Lord my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendour and majesty.

- 2 The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent
3 and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.
4 He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.

Then his act of creating such an incredible world

- 5 He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.
6 You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
7 But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;
8 they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.
9 You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.
10 He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.
11 They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
12 The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.
13 He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.
14 He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate –
bringing forth food from the earth:
15 wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.
16 The trees of the Lord are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
17 There the birds make their nests;
the stork has its home in the junipers.
18 The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

- 19 He made the moon to mark the seasons,

and the sun knows when to go down.
20 You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
21 The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
22 The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.
23 Then people go out to their work,
to their labour until evening.

Nature programs are popular - nature's amazing marvels are displayed on our screens. All of this is not 'chance', or 'mother nature'! It is God's incredible design in incredible complexity, breathtaking beauty and stunning variety.

24 How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
25 There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number –
living things both large and small.
26 There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

27 All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
28 When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
29 When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
30 When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

All creation exists to point us to the Creator, to recognise him as the One who brought it all into being with a word.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works –
32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the Lord.
35 But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Praise the Lord.

[O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,](#) consider all the works thy hand has made..... then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art.

Gordon