

Songs of Our
CREATOR

Glorifying Our Creator
Through the Psalms

Rachel Collins



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For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

(Romans 1:19-20)

May we have eyes to see the glory of our Great Creator!

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Before You Begin

Take just a few moments before we begin to consider ways that you can make spending time with the Lord a priority as we work through this study. He longs to speak to you and has given you His Spirit who will open His Word personally to your heart.

Method

This study guide is based on the inductive method of Bible study. You'll notice that the bulk of your time will be spent directly interacting with the text of the Scriptures themselves, with just a few summaries and explanations included to aid your study. The questions in this guide are designed to help you as you look at the text to see what it says, to guide you through a proper understanding of what it means, and to challenge you to consider your own responses to what the Lord is showing you. If you are new to inductive Bible study, take just a few minutes to read the explanation of this method in the Appendix.

Structure

Each Lesson is divided into five Parts. The first four will guide you through an inductive study of a passage, and the fifth is designed as a review as well as a small group discussion guide. Sprinkled throughout each Lesson are sections titled *Deeper into the Word*. These optional exercises provide you opportunities to further explore related Scripture or outside resources. At the end of each regular Lesson, you will find an additional optional section titled *For Further Study* which will walk you through an additional psalm that echoes the theme of that Lesson.

Translation

The questions in this study are based on the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible, and you will find the text of each psalm we study at the end of the lesson. You can choose any translation you prefer for your study, but if a question doesn't make sense in your preferred translation, see if referring to the ESV aids in your understanding.

Resources

All you will need to complete this study is this study guide, your personal Bible, and your choice of pens, pencils, or highlighters. If you choose to work through the *For Further Study* and *Deeper into the Word* sections, you will also want to have a notebook where you will have room to record your discoveries. Additional resources such as charts, guides and additional study helps can be found on by scanning the QR code to the right.



Encouragement

Remember that Bible study is a privilege, not an obligation, and that working through this study guide is not to be seen as homework. Enjoy this sweet opportunity to get to know the Lord personally – His attributes, His ways, what pleases Him, what displeases Him, how He sees you, and how He wants

you to see Him. If you are using this guide with a group, don't worry about falling behind. Begin each new lesson along with your group with no guilt for what didn't get completed in the previous lesson.

Most importantly, make sure to begin your time of study in prayer. This is so easily neglected, and yet is the key to a rich, deep time in the Word. As **1 Corinthians 2:6-16** explains, it is the Spirit of God who explains to us the wisdom of God. Through prayer we recognize our need for the Spirit to open our ears and our hearts to the things of God, so that we are reading His Word with spiritual understanding rather than natural understanding. Pray for an open heart as you begin your study, pray for understanding as you continue in your study, and pray in response as you complete each time of study.

Contact

It brings me great joy to hear how the Lord is using this study in His Church! If you have any questions or need clarification about anything in this study, have a story to share about how the Lord is using this study, or simply want to say hello and let me know that you are using this either for personal or small group use, feel free to contact me at Rachel@treasuringgodsword.com! I would love to hear from you!

Find PDF downloads of these studies, as well as supplemental books and Bibles at <http://www.treasuringgodsword.com>.

May the Lord pour out His unlimited riches of wisdom and insight into your heart as you meditate on His Word!

Introductory Words

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

In these brief words the God of the ages introduces Himself to His creation. Of all the ways He could have chosen to be the first revelation of Himself, He chose to reveal Himself as the Creator. He is the source, the beginning, the reason for our being.

Pause a moment and think about this. We exist because God chose to bring us into being. If your life is a result of God’s desire for you to live, what does that mean about your identity? Your purpose? Your responsibility toward God?

Suddenly we are no longer defined by our own standards. God, the Creator, defines us. We do not live for ourselves; we live for the One who decided that we will exist. My life is no longer about me, but takes on new meaning, new purpose, a new direction. Because God created me, I am to live as He intended.

All throughout history, and especially in the last few hundred years, humanity has tried to come up with our own explanations for existence. Because there is a responsibility toward God when we recognize Him as our Creator, we as a people have attempted to explain life without Him. Without God, life becomes about us – we are at the center of our own universe, accountable only to ourselves. We have attempted to replace God with myths, with idols, with anything that would excuse us from having to recognize and worship the only One who can actually determine our purpose. Romans 1:18-32 describes in graphic detail the chaos that follows this misplaced devotion – and sounds remarkably like what we see in the world around us.

Let’s reverse modern-day chaos and go back to solid truth. Come with me into the songs of praise written in Psalms, songs that declare the majesty and power of the God who created us. Let’s allow our minds to be cleansed by the washing of the water of the Word (Ephesians 5:26) and come face-to-face with our Creator. He has revealed Himself in His creation, and the psalmists have echoed His revelation in majestic songs of praise. Let’s worship at His feet, declaring His glory, remembering that He alone is God, being transformed from glory to glory as we gaze on His splendor (2 Corinthians 3:18)!

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

(Colossians 1:16)



Lesson 1 – The Majestic One: Psalms 104, 8

The Bible tells us of a great King, a majestic Ruler whose Kingdom extends beyond anything we could comprehend, a King of incomprehensible creative power. This is no fairy-tale king who lived “Once upon a time,” a mythological king created by human imagination. He is the source of all that we see, all that we hear, all that we are. He has signed His work with His fingerprint, revealing Himself in all that He has made, crowning creation with His own image. Genesis tells the story of the beginning of the King’s creation, and the Book of Psalms echoes His praises. Join the chorus of the ages as we consider the majesty and glory of our Creator King, the God of all glory!

Part 1 – Our Glorious Creator

Oh, the majesty of our wondrous Creator! As we begin our study, take a moment to pause and pray. Marvel at the fact that we are about to enter a conversation with the Eternal One, the Author of Existence. He hears your prayers, and He is eager to speak to you in His Word. As we pray, we seek the understanding that only the Spirit of God Himself can give, and we express our faith that He will open the eyes of our understanding to His truth.

Throughout this course we will read each psalm in its entirety before we focus on the individual verses. Always remember to pray as you begin each day’s study, opening your heart to hear the voice of the Lord speaking through His word.

After prayer, **read Psalm 104** without taking notes. You will find a copy of **Psalm 104** at the end of this Lesson. Allow your heart to swell with the descriptions of God and of His Creation.

What are some of your first impressions of this psalm?

Now, let’s take a closer look at this psalm. **Read Psalm 104** again, and make a note of the theme, the main idea, of each stanza (group of verses).

vv. 1-4

vv. 5-9

vv.10-13

vv. 14-15

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

vv. 16-18

vv. 19-23

vv. 24-26

vv. 27-30

vv. 31-35

From what you just noted, what would you say is an overall theme of this psalm? In other words, based on what you have seen in it, what seems to be a primary message that the psalmist wanted to share?

Do you see how Charles Spurgeon could view **Psalm 104** as “a poet’s version of **Genesis 1**” (Spurgeon n.d.)? Let’s look at this account of God’s creative activity.

Read Genesis 1. You’ll find a chart in the Appendix entitled *The Days of Creation in the Psalms*. As you read **Genesis 1**, fill in the left column of this chart, recording what happened on each day of Creation.

Now **read Psalm 104** again and note on your chart any parallels you notice between **Psalm 104** and **Genesis 1**. The first few references are completed for you as an example. Remember that not every day of creation is represented in this psalm.

This may seem obvious, but who is **Psalm 104** primarily about?

Rather than listing everything the psalm tells us about the Lord in one sitting, we are going to make our notes about the Lord as we work through each stanza of **Psalm 104**.

Let’s start by looking at verses 1-9.

Read Psalm 104:1-9 and highlight references to *the LORD*. You’ll notice that the Lord is mentioned in nearly every verse. Rather than rewriting the entirety of the psalm, simply note phrases from the text itself that tell us something about who He is, how He is described, or what He has done.

Deeper into the Word

One of your greatest treasures in studying God's Word will be to have a notebook filled with everything you learn about God. If you haven't started one already, I encourage you to dedicate a notebook where you can keep track of all the insights the Lord gives you about Himself in one place. In your notebook, list the reference (book, chapter, and verse) that you find a truth about who God is, what He did, or what He promises to do. Then record what the text says about God. Add notes on how your life needs to reflect that truth: *Do you need to change a belief, or an action? Is there encouragement for you?* Begin your chart now and keep adding to it as we study. You'll have an opportunity in each psalm to list what the psalm says about the Lord. As you do this, remember to add significant insights to your journal.

v.1

v. 2

v. 3

v. 4

v. 5

v. 6

v. 7

v. 8

v. 9

Psalm 104:1 declares that the Lord is very great, clothed with splendor and majesty. Look up these words in the dictionary. You can use either an English dictionary, or a Hebrew language dictionary, if you have access to one.

What is splendor?

What is majesty?

How does the rest of **Psalm 104:1-4** illustrate the Lord's splendor and majesty?

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

Let's briefly look at a place where the New Testament references **Psalm 104**.

Read Hebrews 1:7. Notice that this verse quotes **Psalm 104:4** as the author argues for the superiority of Jesus over all others. Using Scripture to interpret Scripture, who is the imagery of **Psalm 104:4** speaking of?

You may have noticed that **Psalm 104:1-4** focuses on the heavens. Where does **Psalm 104:5-9** shift our attention to?

What is described in these verses? In other words, what did the Creator do?

Read Job 38:4-11. Notice how this passage parallels **Psalm 104:6-9**, and how both passages describe **Genesis 1:9** in poetic detail. What thoughts come to mind?

As we close for the day, consider how **Psalm 104:1-9** illustrates the splendor and majesty of the Creator. Picture it in your mind and allow your heart to swell with worship. This is your God!

Part 2 – Our Generous Creator

What a lofty vision of our God **Psalm 104:1-9** reveals! Clothed in splendor, He is the One who makes His home in the heavens, commanding the angels, parting oceans, and elevating mountains! And yet, this Majestic One rules with the heart of a servant, making sure the needs of His creation are met in perfect, intricate detail. Let's continue in **Psalm 104** and see the hand of God personally ensuring that His creatures are well loved.

Psalm 104 begins with the words, "*Bless the LORD, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great!*" Take some time in prayer, reflecting on the beauty of our God. Ask Him to share with you new insights into His glory and majesty.

Read Psalm 104:10-30 and highlight references to *the LORD*. Because this is such a long section, let's make our notes about *the LORD* stanza by stanza rather than verse by verse as we did before. Notice what He does for His creation, how He shows His generosity, and if the text mentions it, why He does all this.

vv. 10-13

vv. 14-15

vv. 16-18

vv. 19-23

vv. 24-26

vv. 27-30

Let's look at a few other places in Scripture that echo God's care for His creation. Notice how these reinforce the truths in this psalm.

Genesis 1:29-30

Job 38:39-41 (*In context, this is in a series of rhetorical questions that God is using to challenge Job, displaying His superior wisdom and action.*)

Matthew 6:26-30

In your own words, summarize what you noticed about the Lord's personal care for His creation.

What does that tell you about His care for you? What difference does this knowledge make for you?

Psalm 104 describes a God of incredible generosity and love, a God who ensures that the needs of his creatures are met. He provides water to drink, food to eat, and a place to live. What about humankind? What is our role? **Read Psalm 104:10-23** and highlight references to *man*. In the same color, underline what man does.

v. 14-15

v. 23

Did you notice how each mention of *man* in this psalm refers to the work that man is to do on the earth? Let's go back to the beginning and see how **Genesis** echoes this.

Deeper into the Word

Did you know that the Book of Job has one of the most extensive descriptions in the Bible of God as the Creator? In the final chapters of Job, God breaks into the conversation between Job and his friends as they were trying to figure out the cause of Job's suffering. Rather than explain the suffering, He simply describes His power and glory in His creation. He reminds Job of His wisdom, and in a series of rhetorical questions He silences Job's arguments. **Read Job 38-41.** *What parallels do you see with **Psalm 104**? What else does God say about His care and provision for His creation?*

Read Genesis 2:15. What was Adam's occupation in the garden?

Read Genesis 3:17-19. What happened to Adam's work after sin entered the world? As a result of sin, what would happen to Adam's food supply?

Our generous Creator has provided everything we need. Yet in His wisdom, He established a principle that His provision for mankind would come through our work. Notice how God displays this wisdom in these references:

Leviticus 19:9-10 (see this principle in action in **Ruth 2:2-3, 7**)

Ephesians 4:28

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

Let's close by meditating on the wisdom of God in His creation. **Read Proverbs 8:22-31**, words spoken by wisdom about itself. After this, **read Psalm 104:10-30** again. As you do, consider how God displays His wisdom in his creation. What is He speaking to your heart through His Word today?

Part 3 – Rejoicing in the Creator

My favorite place to study is on my back porch. Although I live in a townhouse, my backyard faces a forest, and I am surrounded by trees as far as the eye can see. I hear the deer run through the woods and enjoy the songs of the birds. Hummingbirds come to visit my petunias, and vegetables are growing in containers on my back deck. There is no place on earth more peaceful to me. Even though I am frequently chased inside by heat or cold or pollen, the times when I can sit outside to study and write are life-giving. God created this world for us to enjoy, and it is filled with unimaginable wonder. If the season is right, I encourage you to work through this lesson outside.

After prayer, **read Psalm 104**. What truths are you noticing today that you didn't notice previously?

Let's finish our notes about the Lord for this psalm. **Read Psalm 104:31-35** and highlight references to *the LORD*. What truths do you see about the Lord in these verses?

v. 31

v. 32

Take a moment to review your notes on God from Parts 1 and 2. What is the one truth about God that has been especially meaningful to you? Why? Write out the verse that teaches you this truth and memorize it.

While most of **Psalm 104** speaks of the Lord, the psalmist refers to himself again in this final stanza. **Read Psalm 104:1** and **Psalm 104:31-35** and highlight references to the *psalmist*. What does he do?

v. 1

v. 33

v. 34

v. 35

Did you notice the request that the psalmist makes in verse 35? What does he ask?

Let's look at a few verses as we consider why the psalmist would make this request.

In Part 2 we looked at **Genesis 3:17-19**. What effect did sin have on God's perfect creation?

Read Romans 8:19-22. How do these verses add to our understanding of the impact that sin has on creation?

The psalmist is eager for the creation to return to its uncorrupted state. With the full revelation we have in the New Testament, we know that only in Jesus could the psalmist's prayer be truly answered. His perfect life, His death, and His resurrection is God's gracious solution to the corruption of sin, a truth we will dive into more deeply in the Lessons to come.

God has a plan for the restoration of all things, a plan He has revealed in the final chapters of the Bible. Let's look at a brief portion of this plan as it pertains to the psalmist's request in **Psalm 104:35**.

Read Revelation 21:5-8. When will the psalmist's prayer finally be answered? How will God answer it?

Notice the list in verse 8 of things that God considers to be sin, unworthy of a place in the new creation. What is mentioned here?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How does this relate to the verses we just read in Revelation? What hope does this give us?

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

If you are new to studying the Bible, hang in there! We will revisit these truths and take more time to explain them in future lessons. For now, simply recognize that sin has corrupted God’s perfect creation, and God has a plan to eliminate that sin so that all creation, including us, can be restored to His intended glory.

Psalm 104 opens and closes with the psalmist exhorting himself to bless the Lord. We understand what we are asking when we call on the Lord to bless us. We know we are seeking His goodness to be poured out on us: His peace, His life, His abundance. But here the psalmist is calling on us to bless the Lord. How could we possibly bless the Lord?

The New Living Translation (NLT) translates **Psalm 104:1** and **35** as “*Let all that I am praise the LORD.*” How might praising the Lord be a blessing to Him?

Let’s look at some other passages that have a similar understanding. Why does the author bless the Lord? What is on the author’s mind as he blesses the Lord?

Nehemiah 9:5-6 (*Continue through the rest of the chapter if you have time.*)

Psalm 16:7

The relationship between God and His works is a focal point of **Psalm 104**. In verse 31, the psalmist expresses his desire that the Lord would rejoice in His works. In verse 34, the psalmist expresses his own rejoicing in the Lord. Consider all that we have seen the psalmist meditating on in **Psalm 104**. How has he modeled what it looks like to rejoice in the Lord? Why do you suppose this would be pleasing to the Lord?

Have you ever rejoiced in the Lord in this way? What does that look like for you? How can you bless God as the Author of Creation?

Part 4 – How Awesome is Our Creator!

What a glorious, generous God we serve! How wonderful are His works, and how majestic is His name! We were filled with awe as we allowed our eyes to behold the greatness of the works of His hand, and the intricate detail He has included as we studied **Psalm 104**. Let's continue in a state of awe as we study **Psalm 8**.

The word *awe* envisions both fear and wonder. When we declare something to be awesome, we are standing in amazement of its grandeur. We recognize its magnitude and are humbled in comparison. While the word *awesome* is not used in **Psalm 8**, the psalmist is clearly standing in awe of God, the One whose fingers formed the heavens. Let's join with the psalmist in his amazement of the Creator. See how a true vision of God fills us with wonder at the significance He has bestowed on us!

As always, begin with prayer. **Read Psalm 8** all the way through and record your first impressions. As before, you will find a copy of **Psalm 8** at the end of this Lesson.

Use an online Bible or Bible app to **read Psalm 8** again in either the NLT (New Living Translation) or NIV (New International Version). Notice how these thought-for-thought translations capture the intention of the psalmist. How does the different wording of this translation deepen your understanding of this psalm?

You'll notice that **Psalm 8** has a title, or a brief explanation given before the first verse. What does the title of **Psalm 8** tell us about who wrote it and how it may have been used?

Let's go through **Psalm 8** stanza by stanza. What would you say is the main idea of each stanza? See if you can trace David's flow of thought.

vv. 1-2

Psalm Titles

Many psalms have a few words of introduction before the psalm itself starts. They may share information about the author, the historical context of the psalm, or instructions from the author as to the purpose of the psalm. In **Psalm 8**, we see the author of the psalm, his intention for the choirmaster, as well as the words *according to the Gittith*. We don't know exactly what this means, but it is likely a musical reference, perhaps a well-known tune or type of musical instrument.

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

vv. 3-4

vv. 5-8

v. 9

At this point, what would you say is a theme, or primary message of **Psalm 8**?

What references to creation do you see in this psalm? Fill in your *The Days of Creation in the Psalms* chart for **Psalm 8**.

Read Psalm 8, highlighting references to *the LORD* as you have done previously. What does this psalm tell us about the Lord?

vv. 1, 9

v. 2

v. 3

v. 4

v. 5

v. 6

God's relationship with humankind is a central theme in **Psalm 8**. **Read Psalm 8** and highlight references to *man*. Rather than going verse by verse, simply make notes about what this psalm says about God's relationship with mankind. What does He do for us? What is our status in His eyes? How does the author of the psalm express his thoughts about this relationship?

Deeper into the Word

In **Psalm 8**, David marvels at the fact that mankind is at the center of God's creation. The psalmist recognizes that there is something different about man, something that makes mankind stand apart from even the most incredible aspects of all creation. **Genesis 1:26-27** gives us the reason that we are so unique. While all of creation displays God's creativity and artistry, mankind alone is created to reflect His likeness. This is a concept in theological circles called *Imago Dei* – the image of God.

It is fascinating to study what exactly it means that we are created in God's image. Remember to always begin your research in the Word itself, leaving commentary reading for after you have seen what the Bible itself has to say. Cross-referencing is a great place to start. Some cross-references you can use are **Genesis 9:6**, **2 Corinthians 3:18**, **Colossians 3:10**, and **James 3:9**. *What do these verses, and their context, tell us about the implications of being created in the image of God?* Use a concordance to find other references.

Once you have studied this in the Word, see what commentators have to say, evaluating their conclusions based on what you have seen in the Scriptures themselves. *How would you describe what it means that mankind is created in the image of God? How does this make us distinct from the rest of creation? What are our responsibilities as God's image-bearers?*

Have you ever paused to consider how incredible it is that God cares for you? Do you know how precious you are in His sight? Take a moment to put your thoughts about this into words. You may even want to pause your study and simply pray. To approach **Psalm 8** with a purely academic mindset and not pause to worship is to miss the point of this psalm.

Let's go deeper in our study of this psalm by looking at how it is quoted in the New Testament, connecting **Psalm 8** with Jesus.

Read Matthew 21:14-16

How does Jesus apply **Psalm 8** to Himself?

How do we see the praise of children silencing the voice of God's enemy in this passage?

Consider the context of the quote that Jesus is using. How does this impact your understanding of Jesus' claim to deity?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

How does Paul apply **Psalm 8** to Jesus?

How does Jesus, as the perfect man, fulfill the claim of man's dominion in **Psalm 8** in its entirety?

Read Hebrews 2:5-10

How does the author of Hebrews apply **Psalm 8** to Jesus?

What does this tell us about who will ultimately have dominion over creation? When will this happen?

Isn't it incredible to see how all the Bible points to Jesus? He is fully God, fully majestic and worthy of awe, honor, and praise. He is fully man, restoring in His perfection all that was originally intended for humanity in creation – yet lost through sin. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Close your study today in prayer, praying through **Psalm 8** with Jesus in mind.

Part 5 - Wrapping It Up

What a mighty, majestic God we serve! One of the most beautiful aspects of the Psalms is how the Spirit of God inspired the psalmist to give words to our emotions and a voice to our sense of awe and wonder. Our God is wonderful beyond comprehension, a God who is infinitely creative, who cares deeply about His creation, and who has crowned even us with glory as we represent Him on earth. Meditate on His works and allow your heart to swell with amazement at the One who spoke everything we see into existence!

Read Psalms 104 and 8. In each Lesson we will begin our review with these five questions:

What do you learn about God from these psalms?

What do you learn about those singing these psalms?

For Small Group Leaders

Use these five questions to open your discussion with a review of the psalm or psalms that you are studying each week, allowing your group to draw application from these questions as you discuss them. Spend the remainder of your discussion time on the application questions in this section as well as those you can considered in the Lesson.

What is the main idea or theme of each of these psalms? Don't get hung up on trying to come up with the "right" answer to this. Simply be able to explain your thoughts from the psalm itself.

How would these psalms have helped the psalmist or those hearing them draw nearer to God?

In what ways do these psalms describe God as our Creator? How do they display His power over creation? What lessons, encouragement, or instructions should we glean from this?

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

Choose a few of the following questions and spend some time answering them. Journal your responses in the space provided or in a separate notebook.

In this Lesson we spent some time in **Genesis 1**. What connections do you see between these psalms and the account of the creation in the first chapter of Genesis?

We spoke about God's care for His creation in this Lesson and looked up just a few verses that echo **Psalm 104's** themes of His provision. What other references or stories in the Bible can you think of that show how God personally cares for His creation?

Humankind has a special place in God's creation. As God's image-bearers, we represent Him on earth. He has entrusted us with dominion over His creation, sharing His responsibility with us (**Genesis 1:26, 28; 2:15**). Seeing how intimately He cares for His creation, what is our personal responsibility toward His earth? Is there something practical you can do to show respect for His works?

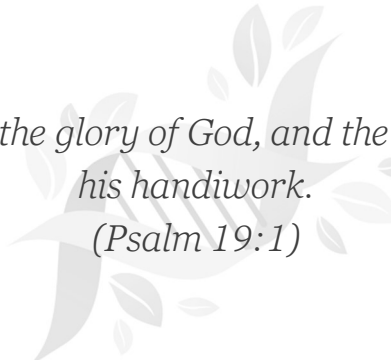
Those who promote the concept of theistic evolution believe that God used the natural forces of evolution in His creative process. They attempt to explain the Bible using modern scientific theory as a source of foundational truth. While a full investigation into this belief is beyond the scope of this study, compare this idea with what we have seen in **Psalms 104** and **8**, and other cross-references. Does the theory that God set evolutionary forces into motion – resulting in the world as we see it today – fit with what the Bible teaches? Explain your thoughts.

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

We often talk about self-esteem in our culture in an attempt to build ourselves up and feel good about ourselves. How does **Psalm 8** give us a healthy way to establish a sense of self-esteem? How does **Psalm 8** teach us humility even as we contemplate our significance in God's eyes? What difference does it make to you as you see yourself in **Psalm 8**?

What has been on your mind as you have studied the psalms in this Lesson? Do you have any praise to express to the Lord? Admiration to declare? Questions to ask of Him? Write a prayer of response to Him.



*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims
his handiwork.
(Psalm 19:1)*

Psalm 104

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
- 2 covering yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.
- 3 He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;
he makes the clouds his chariot;
he rides on the wings of the wind;
- 4 he makes his messengers winds,
his ministers a flaming fire.
- 5 He set the earth on its foundations,
so that it should never be moved.
- 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7 At your rebuke they fled;
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.
- 8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down
to the place that you appointed for them.
- 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
- 10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;
- 11 they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- 12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.

- 13** From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
- 14** You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
- 15** and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.
- 16** The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- 17** In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
- 18** The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.
- 19** He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
- 20** You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
- 21** The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
- 22** When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.
- 23** Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.
- 24** O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

- 25** Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
- 26** There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.
- 27** These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
- 28** When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- 29** When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
- 30** When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
- 31** May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works,
- 32** who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
- 33** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- 34** May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
- 35** Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more!
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 8

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- 2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- 4 what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
- 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
- 7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
- 8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- 9 O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

For Further Study

In this lesson we studied two psalms that describe the majesty, glory, and splendor of God. We saw His work in creation, and we sat in awe of the exalted place He has given to us as His image-bearers.

You found that as you work through the Lessons in this study guide, you are answering questions that walk you through a detailed study of specific psalms, curated to quickly bring you to the heart of the text and guide you through interpretation and application.

In these optional *For Further Study* sections, you will have a chance to work through some psalms on your own. If you worked through the *For Further Study* sections in [Call to Worship](#), you learned a step-by-step, detailed method of studying Psalms, a method you may choose to continue to use in studying these additional psalms that speak of our Creator. You can find a guide to this method entitled *Studying the Psalms* available for free download on the *Treasuring God's Word* website.

For this topical study of our Creator, I would like to introduce you to a more devotional style of studying psalms. The basic study can be found in the Appendix entitled *Meditating on the Psalms*, and in these sections of our study the questions will be customized to match each psalm. While some space is provided here for you to work through this devotional guide, you may want to make your notes in a separate journal.

Let's continue our study in a section of **Psalm 119** that mentions the creative majesty of the Lord, **Psalm 119:73-96**.

Prepare Your Heart to Hear from the Lord

Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to open the eyes of your understanding (**Psalm 119:18**).

Read Psalm 119:73-96 without making any notes. What are your first impressions of this psalm?

Connect with the Psalmist

Psalm 119:73-96 is a personal prayer of the psalmist. What does he tell you about himself – his desires, his personality, his actions? Depending on the amount of time you want to spend in this study, you may choose to make a verse-by-verse list, or you may choose to summarize what you are seeing in each stanza.

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

What does the psalmist say about his situation? What clues do you find in this psalm as to what has happened to him?

What are some truths that the psalmist is pondering in this psalm?

Can you discern the psalmist's emotional state? What clues about this do you find in these verses? How does he handle his emotions?

Connect with the Lord

Read Psalm 119:73-96 focusing on what these verses tell you about *the LORD*. Highlighting references to *the LORD* will help you see all the times He is mentioned. How is God described in this psalm, specifically His attributes and character? Make sure to use the wording of the psalm to answer this.

Read Psalm 119:73-96 again. What does He promise or do?

What can you discern from these verses about the Lord's relationship with the psalmist?

Since we are focusing on the concept of God as Creator in this study, note how this is reflected in **Psalm 119:73-96**.

Connect with the Message

Let's look at some words and concepts that are important to understanding the message of this psalm. **Read Psalm 119:73-96**, noticing and possibly highlighting references to these concepts. In your journal, note what the psalm tells you about the ideas below, using words directly from the psalm, ideally going verse by verse. You may want to summarize your findings in your own words to help you see the big picture of what the psalm is teaching you.

- Law/ rules/ testimonies/ statutes, etc.
- Enemies/ opponents/ the wicked
- Steadfast love/ faithfulness

What comparisons or contrasts do you see in these verses? You can write these out if you choose, or simply use symbols to point them out in your Bible, paying close attention to what the psalm is telling you. Notice words such as *like*, *as*, and *but*.

Notice anything that describes a cause and effect, again either writing out what you see or using symbols in your Bible to point out the relationship between the cause and effect. This can often be spotted with words such as *because*, *so that*, *therefore*, and *for*.

Based on all that you have observed in these verses, how would you summarize the message of **Psalm 119:73-96** in your own words?

Make It Personal

How does this psalm connect with your own experience with the Lord?

What lesson is there for you in this psalm? Encouragement? Warning?

How does God's status as Creator give Him authority to give us instructions to live by? What happens when we ignore His instructions? Is there anything that the Spirit is speaking to you about as you consider this?

Make It Permanently Yours

Choose one or two verses that encourage or challenge you and memorize them.

Include these verses in your prayers over the next several days.

One Step Further

Now that you have completed your study of these verses, feel free to go to commentaries or listen to good teaching on this psalm. See how this psalm has impacted others and glean from their wisdom.

Songs of Our Creator

Lesson 1 – Psalms 104, 8

