

SING PRAISE TO GOD

*"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live:
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."
Psalms 104:33*

REFLECTION

Psalms 104 roughly outlines God's creation of the earth in Genesis 1. It celebrates the order of creation in how God made the world from nothing and rules over it all; the constellations, the creatures, nature and all that live and breathe and inhabit the earth.

Verses 1 to 2 describe how God laid out the light of the heavens. Verses 3 to 4 show the division of the atmosphere into land and sea. Verses 5 to 13 depict God's demarcation of boundaries with the watery expanse and the growth of vegetation in verses 14 to 18. Verses 19-23 delineate God's creation of time and verses 24-26 speak of God's creation of living things which look to God for His providence in verses 27-28.

Like the psalmist who reflects on God's creation order, we cannot but stand in awe and praise our Creator God (v31-35) in celebration of the wisdom and wonder of His handiwork, bringing everything in the universe and on earth into existence. Praise for our Creator God is well captured in the hymn "This Is My Father's World" by Maltbie D. Babcock (1901). Indeed, God has created a good world teeming with life which "declare their Maker's praise."

As children of God who inherit the earth, we are called by God to live on the earth and care for it responsibly. What are we doing in personal capacities to preserve and protect our planet for our children and our children's children? What are the institutions, corporations and schools doing to emphasize social responsibility to God's creation? What can we do as a church to incorporate into our pulpit and prayer the message of responsible stewardship of God's creation?

Take a moment to consider this: If God has created this world for you and me how will He want us to manage and care for it? What practical things can you and I do so as to be good stewards for what has given us?

PRAYER

God our Father, grant us a biblical awareness of creation care. Help us see the earth as Your sanctuary where You can be seen and heard everywhere in all the wonders of creation because You have wrought the earth with Your own Hand. Help us grow deeper in gratitude towards Your kindness, that we may till the earth and care for it in humility and gratefulness, to share with one and all its bounty generously and equally. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Give thanks to God for a greater awareness of creation care among individuals, groups, organizations and corporations, that school children are learning about climate change, deforestation, sustainability, keeping our seas free from pollution, using more environmentally friendly products and packaging, recycling and upcycling.
- Pray for churches to raise awareness for creation care as a significant part of worship and to see creation care as very much a Gospel issue. Pray for all who love God and His people to manifest this through care for God's creation. Pray for all believers to realize that as all things were made by God, and we are made in His image, we have a part to play in the redemption of all creation and not just its people.
- Pray for leaders of nations to care for the environment and to work towards reversing climate change and nature loss. Pray for leaders of nations to come together to agree on a shared plan to tackle carbon emission, air and water pollution, sustainable living and conservation of biodiversity.
- Pray to God to heal those who are sick; some of them facing life-threatening illness. Name them before God and plead to God to have mercy on them and reach out to them with His healing power.

*"God dwells in His creation
and is everywhere indivisibly present in all His works.
He is transcendent above all His works
even while He is immanent within them."
A. W. Tozer*

*If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
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