

Psalm 104—A Language Manifold of Praise
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From Psalm 104. A LANGUAGE MANIFOLD OF PRAISE: THE GROUNDS FOR REASONING, PART 1

#1. This psalm is strictly about the nature of God.

#2. Verses 1-6 SUMMATION: MATERIALITY IS NO OBSTACLE TO THE LORD. Temporal situations and circumstances, forces and material conditions, have no limiting effect on the power of God -- "He makes the clouds His chariots; He walks upon the wings of the wind" (v. 3.) The desert generation of Israelites did not believe this. How shall we think about sickness, trouble, danger, overwhelming experience?

#3. Verses 7-24 SUMMATION: THE LORD IS THE TRUE ENVIRONMENT. The immediate environment available to the senses can mislead us. He sets boundaries for the oceans (v. 9;) "causes the grass to grow" (v. 14.) The Lord "made the moon" and "the sun" (v. 19.) God is the actual and greater environment. Accordingly, He sets the rules in His universe. Political environmentalism is thus unbiblical.

#4. Verses 28-31 SUMMATION: SUSTAINABILITY IS A FUNCTION OF GOD. The Lord is the great Provisioner for the human race. There is a sustaining supernatural provender. This text overrules the ideology of natural sustainability and its politics: "And You renew the face of the ground" (v. 30.)

#5. Verse 31-32 SUMMATION: THE UNIVERSE OF ETERNAL CAUSATION TO TEMPORAL EFFECT. The Lord is cross-dimensional. Here then is the foundation for prayer, hope and expectation. "He looks at the earth and it trembles; He touches the mountains, and they smoke" (v. 32.)

#6. A MANIFOLD OF THINKING EMERGES. It is praise! "I will sing to The Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being" (v.33.)

From Psalm 104. A LANGUAGE MANIFOLD OF PRAISE: THE GROUNDS FOR REASONING, PART 2

#1. There are two very dissimilar grounds for reasoning. One is revelation, and the other we may refer to as natural grounds. Revelation has no dependence upon experience, nor human wisdom, nor any particular human circumstance. Natural grounds are constituted of human reason, rationalization, human lived experience and common sense.

#2. Here is the problem. If natural grounds for reasoning are elevated above revelation, which is almost always the case, then that arrangement regulates the authority of revelation. Consequently, that puts "logical limits" on faith. This does not please God. On the other hand,

if revelation is set above natural grounds, then the Word of God regulates how we think and suppresses those natural grounds.

#3. Is this important? Answer: "Let my meditation (thinking) be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in The Lord" (v. 34.) How our minds function in the perimeter of circumstance is of interest to the Almighty. And the language manifold of praise is "pleasing to Him." This is the biblical mind operating independent of, but within, the perimeter of circumstance.

#4. Question: What is the cause of gladness ? Answer: It is the mind regulated by revelation while within the perimeter of personal experience .

#5. The world knows nothing of this. "Praise" and "glad"(ness) are not the foundation for their language manifold. We are warned: "Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more" (v. 35.)

But for us -- "Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord"! Life is not a process. it is a dependent relation with the Lord.