

PRAYING PSALM 104

“Who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever... You send forth Your Spirit... You renew the face of the earth” (Psalm 104:5, 30).

This a poetic parallel to Genesis. Creation is for the poet as well as the scientist. The author wrote from both sides of his brain. This is a hymn of praise. 1. PRAISE TO YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) (1). Yahweh is God’s name, and it is the most significant word for God in the Old Testament. It has a twofold meaning: First, the self-existent One. The name is connected to the verb “to be.” “I AM THAT I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Second, He is Redeemer (Exodus 6:6). The name occurs 6,823 times in the Old Testament and is especially associated with God’s holiness and redemption. 2. THE WORKS OF YAHWEH (2-32). First, Yahweh created the heavens (1-4). He covers Himself with light. He stretches out the heavens (atmosphere) like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in waters (clouds). The clouds and winds transport Him (He moves in nature). He makes His angels spirits and His servants a flame of fire (i.e. He works supernaturally). Second, Yahweh created the earth (5-9). The earth has foundations, so it can’t be moved. The earth was originally covered with water (Genes 1:2). The earth became without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. God reconstructed the earth. God set a boundary for the seas so they wouldn’t cover the earth. Third, Yahweh adapted the earth for the needs of all living creatures (1-23). Moon for seasons. Sun for light and heat. Darkness for man and animals. Fourth, Yahweh has dominion over all creation (24-32). Wisdom (an Intelligent Designer) created the earth (Proverbs 8). Creation depends on God to sustain it (27). God gave dominion to man, but he forfeited it in the fall. The Spirit of God renews the earth. A look or touch from God can shake the earth. Fifth, Yahweh’s works are worthy of praise (33-35).

Praise Yahweh. Praise the Trinity for being active in creation. Praise the Father for his majesty in creation. Praise the Son for His Wisdom in creation. Praise the Holy Spirit for His renewal in creation and His recreation of the earth. Praise God for His holiness and His work of redemption through Jesus. Praise the Holy Spirit for creating the life of God in you. Sing praises to the Lord as long as you live (33). Meditate on the Lord and be glad in Him (34). In praising the Lord, trust that the wicked will one day be no more (35).