

Jan 22, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
We were created to bring God the glory

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord of the universe, You are the Creator and have given us creative abilities. May we honor You through them.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.
(Ps 19:1 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 19, 2015)

Series: Creation & Salvation
UNIT: All Creation Praises God

NEXT WEEK

Praise God With All Creation
(Ps 148:1-14)

Praise God the Creator Ps 104:1-4, 24-30

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reminds us to see the wisdom of God in His work and to **Praise God the Creator**. The study's aim is to understand that we will be better off if we accept God's wisdom instead of our own. The study's application is to frame our approach to the realities of life and death according to God's wisdom.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

I have often encouraged Christian young people to study science. If a person enters the study of science and nature with a heart for God, he or she will find much for which to praise God. Some have made the study of science into a battleground for truth. And certainly we must seek to make a strong defense for our faith to the wider world. For the believer, however, the study of science is a life of discovering over and over the great wisdom of the divine Maker of all things. And so the first step must be to learn to give God praise. Our text is an eruption of praise. It comes in the midst of a great psalm of praise. The writer is overwhelmed with a sense of God's majestic wisdom and power as he takes in all the details of Creation. So the world around us is not first of all a battleground. It is a scene for worship. God's wisdom has resulted in "manifold" works; that is, the results of God's creative wisdom are of many kinds and are shaped in many ways. This psalm mentions God's creation of light, the heavens, clouds, angels, animals, seas, and more. What depth of intelligence and creativity lies in God's nature! How can we even search it all out? We cannot do so completely, so what do we do? We praise Him, and our hearts are enlarged to worship and adore His great wisdom and power. We take in what we can, but always with a view toward adoration and giving glory to God. Our text next makes the straightforward declaration that God's immense and eternal wisdom is at the root of all the creative work of God. There is no debate. There is no consideration of scientific and worldly theories. The plain truth is that everything in the natural world reflects the wisdom of God. Any true student of the creation must become a worshipper of God. All that we see and study points to a loving being of awesome intelligence. It overwhelms the soul and the mind to think about it. Thus we give God praise for His wisdom. Finally in our text, all that God has made and created upon the earth is spoken of as "riches." They are the rich gifts of God. We should experience the world around us with this understanding. All of His creative works—whether an angel (Ps. 104:4), an animal of the wild (vs. 20), a man engaged in labor (vs. 23), or a creature of the sea (vs. 25)—are rich gifts to be received, studied, and appreciated by the worshipping heart. God has made all things for His purposes, and they fit together in His divine plan for life on earth. Let us enjoy His provision of all things, taking each one of them to heart and spending our lives living in awe of the wisdom of the Creator. If the number and kinds of created works are so varied and innumerable, what can we say about the God who is the Author of them all? We often marvel at the inventions of man, especially in this age of technology, but let us always look to the ultimate, creative Author of all things, remembering His glorious wisdom and seeking to live in harmony with Him.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Creative Greatness of God (Ps 104:1-4)

Creative greatness in majesty (1)

Greatness in majesty because nothing can contain God (1 King 8:27)

Greatness in majesty because there is nowhere we can go from God's presence (Ps 139:7-10)

Greatness in majesty because there is no one or thing like God (Exod 15:11)

Greatness in majesty because of God's great power and strength (Eph 1:18-21)

Greatness in majesty because God is worthy and deserves it (Rev 4:8-11)

Creative greatness in power (2-3)

Power that is great and awesome (Deut 7:21)

Power that should cause the fear of God (Josh 4:24)

Power that is known (Ps 62:11-12)

Power that causes God's enemies to cringe (Ps 66:3)

Power that is mighty (Ps 147:5)

Power that cannot be turned back (Isa 14:27)

Creative greatness in authority (4)

Authority because God stands behind every Word He says (Jer 1:17)

Authority because God is the great "I AM" (Ex 3:14)

Authority because God is the creator (2 Cor 1:20-21)

Authority because God is the only one who has the power (Job 40:8-10)

The Creative Wisdom of God (Ps 104: 24-30)

Creative wisdom in His works (24)

Wisdom in God's works because they are great (Ps 92:5)

Wisdom in God's works because of the display of His power (Luke 9:42-43)

Wisdom in God's works because they are wonderful (Ps 26:7)

Wisdom in God's works because they are awesome (Ps 66:3)

Creative wisdom over the seas (25-26)

Wisdom over the seas because God created them (Gen 1:20-21)

Wisdom over the seas because God owns them (Ps 95:5)

Wisdom over the seas because God knew how to split them (Ps 74:13)

Wisdom over the seas because God controls them (Job 38:25-26)

Creative wisdom over provisions (27-28)

Wisdom over provisions so that all have what is needed (2 Cor 9:8)

Wisdom over provisions to do good works (Eph 2:10)

Wisdom over provisions to be generous (2 Cor 9:11)

Wisdom over provisions that come from God's hand (1 Chron 29:14)

Creative wisdom over life and death (29-30)

Wisdom over life and death through God determining their limits (Job 14:5)

Wisdom over life and death because God is the only One who can destroy both body and soul (Matt 10:28)

Wisdom over life and death including man's spirit (Rom 8:10)

Wisdom over life and death because God is our life (Deut 30:19-20)

Wisdom over life and death because God can put to death and bring to life (Deut 32:39)