

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE:

***CREATION ACCORDING TO THE
PSALMS***

William P. Griffin, Ph.D.

What is the current debate concerning creation?

A Creation Psalm Sampler

8 The place of humanity in creation

19:1-6 Creation bears witness of God

104 Past and present activity of God

148 Creation's proper response to God

PSALM 8 The Place of Humanity in Creation

- 1 O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!
- 2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes
You have established strength
Because of Your adversaries,
To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.
- 3 When I consider Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars,
which You have ordained;

4 What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?
5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!
6 You make him to rule 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 through the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

OBSERVATIONS

PSALM 19:1-6 Creation Bears Witness of God

- 1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech,
nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.
In them [the heavens] He has placed a tent for the sun,
- 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
- 6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

OBSERVATIONS

PSALM 104: Past and Present Activity of God

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God,
You are very great;
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
- 2 Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak,
Stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.
- 3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters;
He makes the clouds His chariot;
He walks upon the wings of the wind;
- 4 He makes
the winds His messengers,
Flaming fire His ministers.
- 5 He established the earth upon its foundations,
So that it will not totter forever and ever.
- 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters were standing above the mountains.
- 7 At Your rebuke they fled,
At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.

8 The mountains rose;
the valleys sank down
 To the place which You established for them.
9 You set a boundary that they may not pass over,
 So that they will not return to cover the earth.
10 He sends forth springs in the valleys;
 They flow between the mountains;
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 lift up their voices among the branches.
13 He waters the mountains from His upper chambers;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works.
14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the labor of man,
So that he may bring forth food from the earth,
15 And wine which makes man's heart glad,
So that he may make his face glisten with oil,
And food which sustains man's heart.
16 The trees of the LORD drink their fill,

17 The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Where the birds build their nests,
And the stork, whose home is the fir trees.

18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
The cliffs are a refuge for the shephanim.

19 He made the moon for the seasons;
The sun knows the place of its setting.

20 You appoint darkness and it becomes night,
In which all the beasts of the forest prowl about.

21 The young lions roar after their prey
And seek their food from God.

22 When the sun rises
they withdraw
And lie down in their dens.

23 Man goes forth to his work
And to his labor until evening.

24 O LORD, how many are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all;
The earth is full of Your possessions.

25 There is the sea, great and broad,
 In which are swarms without number,
 Animals both small and great.

26 There the ships move along,
 And Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.

27 They all wait for You
 To give them their food in due season.

28 You give to them,
 they gather it up;
 You open Your hand,
 they are satisfied with good.

29 You hide Your face,
 they are dismayed;
 You take away their spirit,
 they expire And return to their dust.

30 You send forth Your Spirit,
 they are created;
 And You renew the face of the ground.

- 31 Let the glory of the LORD endure forever;
Let the LORD be glad in His works;
- 32 He looks at the earth, and it trembles;
He 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 my being.
- 34 Let my meditation be pleasing to Him;
As for me, I shall be glad 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!

OBSERVATIONS

PSALM 148 Creation's Proper Response to God

- 1 Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
- 2 Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!
- 3 Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all stars of light!
- 4 Praise Him, highest heavens,
And the waters that are above the heavens!
- 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.
- 6 He has also established them forever and ever;
He has made a decree which will not pass away.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
Sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail,
snow and clouds;
Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

9 Mountains and all hills;
Fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Beasts and all cattle;
Creeping things and winged fowl;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples;
Princes and all judges of the earth;
12 Both young men and virgins;
Old men and children.
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For His name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.
14 And He has lifted up
a horn for His people,
Praise for all His godly ones;
Even for the sons of Israel,
a people near to Him.
Praise the LORD!

OBSERVATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

NON-ISSUES IN THE PSALMS

The age of the earth.

How long humans have been around.

The order of creation.

SIMILARITIES TO GENESIS

God created everything.

Humans are stewards over the earth.

Humans are valued above animals.

DIFFERENCES FROM GENESIS/ADDED ITEMS

Creation is not stuck in the past, but is part of God's ongoing activities.

Creation bears witness of God and His ways.

The creation of the world gets tied to God's dealings with Israel.

Creation is a personal matter.

Creation--human and non-human-- is called to respond to God, the Creator.

The Scripture writers respond to God's creation activities with praise.

God's care for "nature," especially animals, is highlighted.

Weather is not merely the result of "natural" processes. God controls the weather, and is responsible for the prosperity--or lack thereof--that is the result of weather.

PSALMS VS. NON-CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS

The biggest point of disagreement with atheistic evolutionists would be this: humans are to acknowledge, thank, and obey God because He is the creator, vs. their disregard for God.

O LORD, our Lord,

How majestic is Your name in all the earth!