

Praise Him in Creation

Psalm 148:1-6, 13



We call it the Book of Psalms, but the Hebrew name is Book of Praises. Matthew Henry says the psalmist David, while taking care of his father's flocks, studied "God's two great books—nature and Scripture. He is wisest who reads both the world book, and the Word book as two volumes of the same work, and feels that his Father wrote them both."

Can you think of a better way to praise God than seeing Him as the Creator in the Psalms!

We Praise the Creator

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker” (Psalm 95:6).

The scriptural pattern for praising God in His creation begins and ends with worshipping Him. I admit that I don’t understand God’s command that non-human beings or inanimate objects worship Him. I wonder

for Creation Research, says, “God simply called the universe into being by His Word.”

Psalm 33:6 and 9 show how worthy God is of our praise. These verses remind us of one of the most read passages in the Bible, Genesis 1, which is the account of creation. God did not wave a wand or call in special effects people; He just said it was so, and it was. Note that the pronouns “us” and “our” in

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” “For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

—Psalm 33:6; 9

how a creepy crawler, a killer whale, or a cactus can praise Him, but the command is clear in Psalm 69:34.

It might just be that mankind knows less about exalting the Creator than inanimate objects do! The rebellious human heart and a lack of surrender to sovereign God keep us from exalting Him, which is a sin.

The omnipotent God didn’t even need a blueprint to present to a planning commission when He was ready to build the world, either! Instead, as Dr. Henry M. Morris, founder of the Institute

Genesis 1:26 are plural, denoting the Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Man, of course, is God’s crowning achievement, but He did not create him for self-glorification. Kay Arthur, co-founder of Precept Ministries International, writes: “If God is the Creator of all things, who has given us life? Elohim, of course! And why were we created? For Him! You are a unique creation of God, one of a kind, created for His glory.”¹

¹Kay Arthur. *Lord, I Give You This Day: 366 Appointments with God*. (Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2006).

A wonderful thought! The God of the universe personally created us to praise Him! Of course, our glorifying Him does not make Him a greater Creator, for God can never be less or more. We exalt the creator because He commanded us to

do so and because He is worthy of our praise.

Can you read Psalm 104:1 without thinking of the song, "How Great Thou Art?" Ride through the mountains or stand in the ocean waves, and you will find your soul singing it!

Exploration and Interaction With the Word

Write some verses of your own using thoughts and words from the Psalms. Ask God to write them on your heart so they will remind you to praise Him in creation. Sharing them with a friend who doesn't know the Creator-Savior would be good.

Reflection and Response

Pray the Word (Psalm 139:14) back to the Creator. Maybe realizing God made each of us to be His very own can shore up a low self-esteem. We can only do so much to change our looks or remove blemishes as our bodies grow older, but we can acknowledge what God has made isn't bad!

Praise the Creator – Not the Creation

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isaiah 42:8).

Marty and Clark from Janette Oke's *Love Comes Softly* have "been through a lot." Down by the stream one day, Clark reflects on how life flows like the water, moving the good and bad. He leaves Marty to herself. She now feels she and Clark can

had formed to shape idols and images of their vain imaginations did not believe Isaiah 42:8. While traveling with my husband to Cote d'Ivoire for International Missions, I heard testimonies from believers who once owned fetishes and idols. Without exception, when people got saved, they immediately wanted to burn their images, knowing instinctively, even before they knew the Scriptures, that they could not worship the Creator *and* the creation.

Some people still tend to

"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."

—Isaiah 42:8

face whatever is ahead. "She was ready to go on now, too. She had drawn strength from the woods. No, not that. She had drawn strength from the God who had made the woods." ²

Our hope and strength are in the Lord, not in what He made (Psalm 121:2). In Paul's time, some people worshiped the creation itself, which is a sin, as he said in Romans 1:18-27. People who used what God

put some portion of creation on a pedestal, as bird watchers did with the "Lord God Bird," named that because of the so-called "epiphanies" many of its spotters had. I like birds! I photograph them for a series I call "Through My Kitchen Windows". However, I have not glimpsed a bird that made me have a spiritual experience. But, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Geographic have both recorded the thoughts of people who spotted

²Janette Oke, *Love Comes Softly*. (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1979).

the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Arkansas woods in 2004-05. Thought to be extinct, it was last seen at the end of WWII. "Seeing it was like being in a

cathedral." "My life was changed forever." "The bird rose Lazarus-like from the grave." God alone, and no member of the universe, is worthy of our worship.

Exploration and Interaction with the Word

Tell about people who seemingly exalted the creation. Is it possible for someone to come close to making another person "a god"? How does the Lord feel about nations that deify a ruler?

Reflection and Response

Reflect on a time that God used His creation to inspire you to write a poem or paint a picture. We can do that *without* worshiping what we see.

Feeding the birds often reminds me of how God supplies my needs. Give examples of how God used objects in His creation to strengthen or teach you, sometimes in unique ways. I remember thinking, as I kept trying to herd my children away from its precipice, that I did not want to be a Grand Canyon Christian, living as close to the edges of sin as possible without getting burned.

We Praise God the Sustainer

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17).

Consist means to be sustained, to be held together, or to be upheld, as in Hebrews 1:3. Have you ever made a cake that fell apart? Why doesn't our world fall apart? What if the earth went out of orbit, giving us about two months of survival time—at the most? We praise God in creation because He is the supernatural glue that holds it all together!

Some cultures and people who profess that God made the world do not believe that He cares for it. *Deists* say that God created the world, set it into motion, and then backed out of the picture. The world and its creatures would have to fend for themselves without any supernatural support in a universe of “self-sustaining laws.” We would be in worse shape than we already are if we lived on a self-sustaining earth. How sad to believe that lie, and it is a lie.

In these days of wondering how much more chaos the world can bear, it is encouraging to read Isaiah 40:26.

God holds His creation together, including us, by His

might and power. Man can do nothing to assist Him. He continues to uphold it because He cares about us! That is a beautiful thought because it shows us He is willing to invest anything to save those He created in His image. There is no proof in Heaven or earth greater than the “loving-kindness” He showed in giving His Son to die on the cross for us, a mere created being.

God also provides daily sustenance for everything. “He's Got the Whole World in His Hands” is factual. The Bible is chock-full of promises of God as our caretaker (Luke 12:6-7).

Matthew 6:25-34 is a good example of trusting God for sustaining needs. This does not mean we can be careless and not work or think ahead about our needs; it means we trust Him to take care of us.

How often have you heard this verse quoted?

***Let every thing that
hath breath praise the
Lord. Praise ye the Lord
—Psalm 150:6***

This command for us to praise our Creator-God is the last verse in the Psalms, God's Book of Praises! God made us;

He will not share His glory with His creation; and He will always take care of what He has made.

Exploration and Interaction with the Word

Look up some of the following verses that remind you of God's love and care for His creation. Apply them to your own heart.

Psalm 8

Psalm 19:1

Psalm 23

Psalm 24:1

Psalm 36:6

Psalm 95:4

Psalm 100:3

Psalm 104:11,21

Psalm 147:9

Reflection and Response

This hymn relates to many of the verses we mentioned from the Psalms. Can you see the theme of praising the Sustainer in it? Singing this in the church, car, or house really is making "a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100:6). How can you apply these lyrics to your own life?

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken, 1674. Public Domain.

About the Author: Long-time writer Genevieve Waddell has published two books. She also taught at Welch College for 10 years. Genevieve's husband, Gene, served as a pastor and director of International Missions for 50 years. Accompanying him to many fields is one of the highlights of her life.

Genevieve contributed pictures from "Through My Kitchen" series found on the cover and pages 11 and 47.