

Part 6 – How Manifold Are Thy Works, Oh Lord

In part 5 we learned more about how our Heavenly Father so wonderfully provides for His creation. Not only does He provide rivers and springs (and underground water we can access through wells) for water, He also provides rain that is vital to keep the pastures filled with grass, so the cattle don't die; yet it's just as paramount for mankind, because many people grow grain crops that depend *totally* on the rain (even today). And, if you've ever grown crops (or even a garden), you know that rain *from above* (in 'due season') is *far better* than any irrigation system can ever be. Yet He also provides wine, oil and bread that comes from grapes, olives and grain that grows, on account of the rain. These are things we need for lighting, hygiene, nutrition and even enjoyment. But the rain also causes the trees to grow strong and tall; and there are many benefits from the wood that comes from trees, even still today. Cedar is still a valued wood because it repels bugs. Yet the trees also provide homes for many birds; and even the mountains (high hills) and rocks in them are homes for some of God's creation. It's rather amazing how some animals flourish in some of the areas we think are quite inhospitable (mountains and in the freezing cold climates), which again proves our Heavenly Father well knows how to provide for His creation. And that should remind us not to worry about our basic needs. So long as we fear, revere, love and obey our Heavenly Father, He'll *always* provide for our basic needs (food, water, shelter and clothing); and mostly likely, He'll even bless us *far beyond* our basic needs *when* we continue to love and serve Him (that is His promise to us, after all).

And then we also learned how the Lord (YHVH) appointed the moon and sun in their seasons. That's why the sun always comes up in the morning and goes down in the evening; while the moon always comes up in the evening and yet goes down in the morning! But we also learned that God gave us the sun, moon and stars for signs, times and seasons. So, we can not only calculate time by them (i.e. have a calendar) but also know when to plant crops and such. Yet, the Zodiac (of the stars) also is a 'sign' to us, for it teaches us God's plan of Salvation. Thus, the stars are a *second witness* to what God's Word also says. And, so long as we don't worship them (or think they have any control over our lives) it's good for us to study the Zodiac (in conjunction with God's Word) to learn what has been, and what shall be; for the stars (along with the sun and moon) are also given to us for 'signs of the times'. However, the Psalmist is certainly not done explaining the wonders of our Heavenly Father's creation...

Psalm 104

20 Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

The word '**makest**' here means *to place* (in a very wide application, #7896) and the word '**darkness**', of course, means *the dark*; hence (literally) *darkness* (#2822). And the word '**night**' means *a twist (away of the light)*, i.e. *night* (#3915) while the word '**beasts**' means *alive* or *life* (as in *living thing*, #2416). And the word '**forrest**' means *a copse of bushes*; hence, *a forest*

(#3293) and the word ‘creep’ means *to glide swiftly*, i.e. *to crawl or move with short steps* (#7430). So then, how does our Heavenly Father ‘make’ (place) the darkness, which creates the night? Naturally, He simply makes sure that the sun goes down and the moon, and stars, come up in their ‘due course’. Which, we know today, means the planets, moon and stars *all continue on in their regular orbits* which they are *designed* to move in. In other words, *because* He has placed the moon and stars in *specific orbits* (around the sun), *that* is how He ensures that there’s *always* day and *always* night. Again, that’s *how* he ‘makes’ the darkness. As Ps 119:91 points out, the sun, moon and stars are all His ‘servants’ and that’s *why* they continue on (to this very day) according to His ‘ordinances’, which means they are a part of His Divine Law (#4941). In fact, so permanent are the orbits of the moon and the stars (and the sun staying still) that He even *swears by them* (in Jer 31:35-36 and Jer 33:25-26) when promising that Israel will *always* be a nation and there will *always* be a descendant of David ruling over them. Of course, that means true Israelites *still exist today* (i.e. the Christian nations) and there *is still* a descendant of David’s ruling over them (i.e. the throne in Great Britain) even yet today.

But, the Psalmist also points out that there are many living creatures that are active at night, *and* He’s created them that way. Thus, while the daytime is the ‘time’ for certain animals to be active (and us humans, usually) the night is the ‘time’ for other animals (and creatures) to be active. Some animals only hunt for food at night, such as coons, skunks and opossums (just pointing out the common ones in America; there’s likely many others in different areas of the world). So, the point is that, our Heavenly Father specifically made this earth age so there is a day and a night. And He even specially created animals to flourish at night, while others in the day. And, there’s nothing wrong with that, because *that’s how He created them to be*.

Psalms 104

21 The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

22 The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

So, after the Psalmist speaks of how the Lord (YHWH) specially made some creatures to be active at night, he now gives us an example of such. For lions primarily hunt at night (or during cooler, darker hours) because their excellent night vision, and adaptations, give them a *huge* advantage; the night (darkness) allows them to stalk, and ambush, prey under the cover of darkness while also avoiding the heat, and detection, that comes with daylight. While they are not strictly nocturnal, they are *more active* when it's dark, and often wait until after sunset to launch their attacks, using tall grass or gullies for cover. So, the point is that: the night time is God’s ‘gift’ to *some* of the animals He created, for it helps them to be able to obtain food easier than in the day. The fact that the Psalmist says the lions ‘seek their meat from God’ shows that ‘God’ (*‘El* #410, which means the **Almighty God** who is *Omnipotent*) has *given them the night* in order to be able to find (and kill) food easier. Likewise, God has allowed Satan a ‘short time’ to be on earth and try and deceive people (Rev 12:12; Mth 24:21-27). But thankfully, we’ve been

warned (Mth 24, Mk 13, Lk 21, 2 Thess 2, Rev 12, etc.) *and can prepare for the ‘night season’, spiritually speaking [Be Sure You’re Ready <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>].*

Psalms 104

23 Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

And now the Psalmist gives an example of those who are active during the day time, i.e. human beings are most active during the day. So, whether God’s creation is active during the night, or the day, He still provides for them. And, of course, *spiritually speaking, we should be ‘children of the day’, as Paul wrote to the Thessalonians...*

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

*4 **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

*5 **Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day**: we are **not** of the night, nor of darkness.*

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

*7 For they that sleep **sleep** in the night; and they that be drunken are **drunken** in the night.*

*8 **But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.***

*9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation **by** our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1 Thess 5:1-9

So, Paul warns us not to be ‘in the dark’, spiritually speaking. In the Scriptures, the **Light** is likened to **truth** (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 37:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) and **darkness** is likened to **lies** (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14). And God has separated the two through His Son, Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God (Acts 26:18, Isa 42:6-16, 60:1-4, John 1, Gen 1:2-5). And someone who cannot see truth is likened to a blind person who cannot see physical light and vice versa (Ps 146:8, Ezek 12, Isa 29:18, 35:5, 42:7, 16-20, 43:8, 56:10, 59:10, Mth 11:15, 15:14, John 9:39-41, 2 Pt 1:9, Rev 3:17). Thus, Paul warns us *we shouldn’t be ignorant of the ‘times and season’ when Jesus Christ returns*. And Jesus warned us of this too in Matt 24:42-44 as does Peter in 2 Peter 3:10. Thus, spiritually speaking, we must be diligent to keep watching for the return of Jesus Christ, even during ‘the night’. But, what ‘time’ is the night? It’s when people normally sleep or ‘party’. As Jesus warned...

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

*27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, **until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.***

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

*29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom **it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.***

*30 **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.***

Luke 17:26-30

So, Jesus warned us that people will be going on with their daily lives (eating, drinking, marrying, etc.) – and even ‘partying it up’ (Rev 11:10-15) – clear up to the day the *true* Jesus Christ returns. Thus, ***the physical ‘night’ is symbolic for the ‘great tribulation’*** (Mth 24:21) when the ‘antichrist’ (who is Satan) will come to earth (with his fallen angels) and pretend (i.e. lie) that he is *the* ‘Christ’ (our Savior) who’s come to ‘save the world’. But the point is, most people won’t think anything is wrong. Quite the contrary, they’ll be elated because they think the ‘Messiah’ has finally returned to ‘save’ the world from all its problems. But, we are warned (many times over) that the ***true* Jesus Christ does not return until after the false Christ (who is Satan) comes to the earth to deceive the world into worshipping him and implementing his ‘beast’ governing system into the entire world.** As Rev 12:9 says: *the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

And then, Rev 13 tells us Satan heals the ‘deadly wound’ (to the worldwide governmental ‘beast’ system) when he comes to the earth, which is *what* ushers in the ‘night time’ (spiritually speaking) because the nearly the whole world (those who are not sealed, Rev 7) will believe the lies (darkness) that Satan is telling (Rev 13:5-6). And, in 2 Thess 2, Paul gives us an excellent summary of *two* specific things that must happen **before** the true Jesus Christ returns. One is the ‘falling away’, i.e. the *great* apostasy (Christians fall away from their belief in the *true* Christ and believe Satan is the true ‘Christ’) and the other is that Satan himself will be cast out of heaven (with his fallen angels) claiming to be the true ‘Christ’ (2 Thess 2:3-4). So, while some of God’s natural creatures were designed to live in the physical darkness, it’s important that we don’t dwell in spiritual darkness (of lies and confusion), so we’re not fooled into becoming the ‘children of the night’ when Satan comes to try and get everyone on earth to worship him! You can learn more about this in the following studies...

Antichrist, Satan or Man <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>

Do Not Be Deceived <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>

How Can Satan Deceive the Whole World <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>

The Apostasy – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>

The Apostasy – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/500>

The Apostasy – Part 3 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/501>

Psalm 104

24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Now the Psalmist takes a break from speaking of God's creation (of the second earth age) to take a moment to praise the '**Lord**' (*Yehovah*, #3068) for his 'manifold works'. This is actually a figure of speech (Apostrophe, apx 6). The word '**manifold**' means *to cast together, increase in number* and *to multiply by the myriad* (#7231), so it could even be rendered as '**countless**'. And, interestingly, the word '**riches**' means *creation*, or *creatures*, although it can also mean *acquisition, purchase* or *wealth* (#7075). So the point is, if we simply look around and observe God's magnificent creation – the food chain, the ecosystems, even the human body (etc.) – one whose heart is not hardened (by lust, pride, greed, etc.) *will* come to acknowledge that we **do** truly have a Creator, because all of creation (as well as the heavens, Ps 19) truly 'testifies' of Him. As Paul wrote, in Rom 1:20-22: *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.* Indeed, the 'invisible things' (like our Creator) are clearly seen (and can be understood) by the things *that are made*. And even His eternal power, and Godhead, can thus be understood by the things that are made. How can this be? As the study on the Trinity explains [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1013>] we can understand what God is like *because* we're made in His, **and** the angel's, image (Gen 1:26-27). So, we know that they have a body, soul and spirit [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>] because we do, and we're made 'in their image'.

And we can also understand God's eternal power because of the fact that the sun remains while the planets, moon and stars continually revolve around it. As the Lord (YHVH) said in Isa 55:8-9: *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts!* And this is especially true when people are carnally minded (Rom 8:5-8). But, as Christians (who believe in Jesus and follow Him), we should not be carnally minded but spiritually minded, which means to seek (and set our heart upon) things which 'are above', not on fleshly things of the earth (Col 3:1-2). While this doesn't mean we can't think about things of the flesh (we must live in the world, after all) they should not be more important to us than helping God's precious plan of salvation. As Peter says, in 1 Peter 4:2, we should *not* live our life in the flesh for the 'lusts of men' but for the 'will of God'.

Thus, we *should* want to study God's Word (sincerely and consistently) *for ourselves* (2 Tim 2:15). And when we do, we will learn to recognize the glory (and power) of God's 'manifold

works’, for they are many (Ps 139:17-18). And, indeed, He has made them ‘in wisdom’, as the book of Proverbs says...

22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Prov 8:22-31

In this proverb, Solomon uses ‘wisdom’ *metaphorically*. So, this Psalm is ‘wisdom speaking’ about how God used ‘her’ (wisdom) to create the heavens and the earth. So, our Heavenly Father certainly had wisdom ‘from the beginning’ and used ‘her’ a lot when creating this beautiful earth, as well as when He reformed (renewed) it after the destruction of the first earth age (written of in in Gen 1:2, this Ps 104; 2 Pt 3:5-6 and Jer 4:23-27, etc.). And that’s why, when we truly take the time to contemplate the complexity, beauty and perfection of His creation, we cannot help to exclaim: *O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep* (Ps 92:5) ...

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery [Col 1:26-27, the mystery is ‘Christ in us’ via the Holy Spirit], even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

*10 But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

*12 Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.***

*13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth [John 16:13]; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

*16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **But we have the mind of Christ.***

1 Cor 2:7-16

We'll pick this up in part 7...

AMEN.