

Friday, May 29, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 36 (NIV)

⁵ **Your love, Lord,** reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

⁶ **Your righteousness** is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.

YOU, LORD, PRESERVE BOTH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS.

⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.

⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

— PART 4 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

— CONTINUED —

“You, Lord, preserve both people and animals” — Let’s continue to look at how beautifully this simple sentence is unpacked in Psalm 104:



PSALM 104 (NIV)

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.

²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all **the beasts of the forest** prowl.

²¹ **The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.**

²² The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.

²³ Then **people** go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.

²⁴ **How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
**teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.**

²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,

and **LEVIATHAN, which you formed to delight in.**





²⁷ **All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.**

²⁸ *When you give it to them, they gather it up;*

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are terrified;**

when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

³⁰ **When you send your Spirit, they are created,**

and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ **May the glory of the Lord endure forever; MAY THE LORD REJOICE IN HIS WORKS —**

³² **he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.**



Watch the Lord's loving provision continue in vv. 19-26 — and it is now extended even to **lions! The predatory beasts of the forest! The infinite variety of sea creatures.** (*"There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number."*) Even **the LEVIATHAN!** They terrorize us...but bring delight to their Creator!

"Leviathan is not a fearsome, mythic monster to be conquered, but is just another creature of the Lord — **most likely understood here as the whale or the shark.** The [verb is open to a variety of interpretations....but the most common sense is 'TO LAUGH AT,' with TO DELIGHT IN HIM as the most dynamically equivalent translation available. A comparison with Job 41:5 is instructive. There, God asks Job regarding Leviathan, "Do **you DELIGHT IN HIM** as with a bird?" God's rhetorical question in the book of Job **expects the "no" answer — Job does not (or cannot) delight in Leviathan.** In Psalm 104 the point scored here goes to the Lord's power (greatness, v. 1) and the Lord's intention for creation. **The Lord easily manages what no human can achieve — TO LAUGH AT/DELIGHT IN Leviathan, the most fearsome of beasts (a whale, shark, or crocodile).** As for God's intention for creation, the point is made that **GOD DELIGHTS IN CREATION. God has fashioned even the most fearsome creatures of the earth AS SOURCES OF DIVINE JOY AND DELIGHT."**

NANCY L. DECLAISSE-WALFORD, ROLF A. JACOBSON, & BETH LANEEL TANNER, *The Book of Psalms* (NICOT).

Can you imagine! "God has fashioned even the most fearsome creatures of the earth as sources of divine joy and delight." What a magnificent, majestic God! And what a compassionate, caring God to provide for each of his creatures precisely what they need. (*To be continued.*)

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*Loving Father, we **delight** in you. And we thank you today for **providing** so beautifully, bountifully and **specifically** for your creatures, "both people and animals" — and for **delighting** in us!*

Pastor Doug