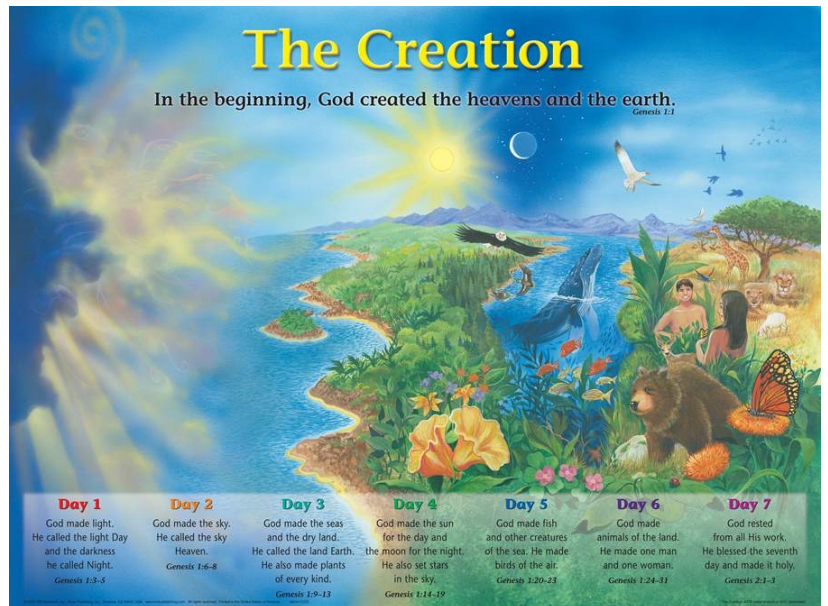


## Psalm 104—The Wisdom & Love of the Creator

**Author Unknown :** There is no superscription for Psalm 104 in the Hebrew Bible. However, the Greek Septuagint and Latin (Vulgate) versions give as the heading, “A Psalm of David.” It is possible, the same author wrote Psalm 103, due to the identical inclusion of the words “**Bless the Lord, O my soul,**” found at the beginning and end of both Psalms. Psalm 104 continues the spirit of worship and praise, focusing upon God as the Creator, provider, and sustainer of creation.

**Theme:** The theme reveals God’s sustaining order behind creation, as described in Genesis chapter 1.

**Summary:** Each section of Psalm 104 details another part of creation; the Earth covered with water, the separation and formation of the land, the water cycle, plants and animals, food for all creatures, man works in the day and the animals hunt by night, the vastness of the oceans overflowing with life, and God's Sovereignty over ALL of His creation.



One significant difference between the two texts is that Genesis focuses on what was created and Who did the creating. Psalm 104, however, also addresses the *why*: why did God create this? Its point is to show how God is in charge of His creation, and that each part has a role to play in His overarching purpose.

**Outline:** There is wide recognition among Old Testament scholars that Psalm 104 not only interprets the Genesis creation accounts but also follows the same basic order as the days of creation in Genesis 1.

- I. **Verses 1-5** - God and the Majesty of the Heavens
- II. **Verses 6-9** - Creation of the Sea and Dry Land
- III. **Verses 10-18** -God’s Abundant Provisions for the Feeding and Maintenance of All the Creatures According to Their Nature

IV. **Verses 19-26** - The Regular Course of the Sun and Moon (day & night) and the Season, the Vastness of the Sea and all that Dwells in it

V. **Verses 27-30** - God's Sovereignty Over the Creatures and His creation

VI. **Verses 31-35** - May the Glory of the LORD Endure For Ever, May the LORD Rejoice in His Work

I. **Psalm 104:1-5** God and the majesty of the heavens.

**1** “(You) Bless the LORD, O my soul! LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, **2** covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. **3** He lays the beams of His chambers on the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He rides on the wings of the wind.

**4** He makes His messengers winds, His ministers a flaming fire.”

**5** He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.

Verse one (1) is an imperative sentence, a command, the subject is always “you” and so, I command my soul, to **bless the LORD**.

“**O LORD my God, thou art very great.**” Yahweh, my Elohim, He is great, and very great, our Savior; great in all His works of creation, His providence, His divine intervention, and redemption. He is great in all His offices of Prophet, Priest, King, and Savior. (Great: Eminent, powerful, fame, or recognized superiority)

The Bible supports and confirms modern day science; it is not a book of fantasy or myths. The descriptions that the Bible gives on many scientific topics are details that the writers, many thousands of years ago, could not have known on their own or be validated through technology for it was not available in their day. Much of the research was only recently confirmed and affirmed through modern science.

As we continue to explore Psalm 104, I will refer to some of these scientific facts, as recorded in: (“ **How the Bible Aligns with Science - The Church on the Corner: 101 Scientific Facts and Foreknowledge**” by Eternal Productions)

**Fact #1 PHYSICS – The Biblical creation account includes all known scientific elements: Time, Space, Matter, and Energy.**

These elements are reflected in the following descriptions, as revealed in Genesis chapter 1: **Time**–“**In the beginning...**”; **Space**–“**God created the heavens**”...; **Matter**,-(all physical substance in general, distinct from mind and spirit) “**...and the earth.**”; **Energy**- (Energy, power to work, it can exist in a variety of forms, such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, thermal, or nuclear.) “**Then God said, “Let there be light...**”

**The King’s Robe.** (verses 1b-2). “**God, my God, how great you are! beautifully, gloriously robed up in sunshine,**” (Message Bible) Beautiful poetry

Psalm 104 provides an answer to the long-standing question about the source of light on the first day of Creation: The light that surrounded God, also provided light for the earth.” In a small way, we can understand this idea of **light as a garment** by considering the appearance of Jesus at His transfiguration: “ **His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.**” Matthew 17:2

### The King's House.

Our King, Jesus, has a residence! He stretched heaven out like a tent. The beams on the waters, appears to be the foundations of Heaven. (See picture).

Beams suggest, a brace, structure, and support. The chambers suggest, "His upper rooms", one story over another being built by God in the heavens, a penthouse so to speak.

**Amos 9:6 “ He builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth; he calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land— YAWEH, the LORD is His name.”**

The plural word heavens, refers to more than one. The first heaven includes the sky in earth’s atmosphere, the second heaven goes beyond what we can see, the universe; including the space where God created sun, moon, and stars. Heaven, our King’s home is considered to be the third Heaven.

**“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows” (2 Corinthians 12:2).**

### The King's Jet (Mode of Travel).

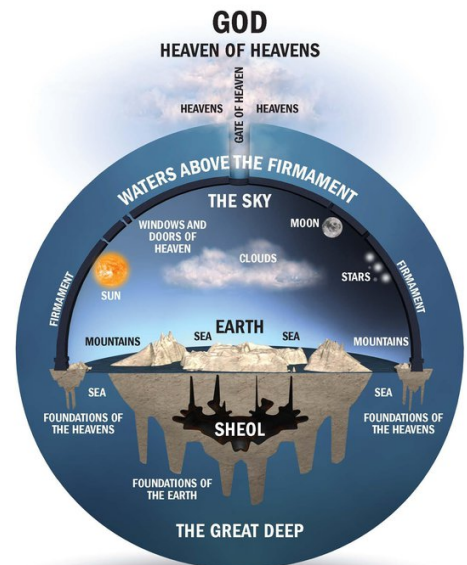
See His chariot! He rides out on the clouds. Psalm 104:3b-4 MSG. **“You commandeered (seized) winds as messengers, appointed fire and flame as ambassadors....made a chariot out of clouds and took off on wind-wings”.**

Observe how He orders His magnificent servants! Not only do wind and lightning obey His commands, the angels, also do His bidding like thunderbolts of fire. In chariots, made by clouds, Jesus went up to heaven in clouds; and in clouds He will come a second time. The saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air at His coming. Page 3

### Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Universe

The ancient Israelites divided the world into Heaven, Earth, Sea and the Underworld.

- ▶ They viewed the sky as a vault resting on foundations—perhaps mountains—with doors and windows that let in the rain. God dwelt above the sky, hidden in cloud and majesty.
- ▶ The world was viewed as a disk floating on the waters, secured or moored by pillars. The earth was the only known domain—the realm beyond it was considered unknowable.
- ▶ The Underworld (Sheol) was a watery or dusty prison from which no one returned. Regarded as a physical place beneath the earth, it could be reached only through death.



Acts 1:9 ***“After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.”***

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ***“After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”***

Revelation 1:7 ***“Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.”***

### ***Does the Earth, Float in Space, Or is it Built on a Foundation? (Pillars).***

He ***“built the earth on its foundations”***, (verse 5). When you want to build a structure, you start with a foundation. According to v. 5, the earth is built on top of the foundations. The foundations are so strong, that earth will never be moved. Are the ancient Hebrew scholars accurate, believing the earth is built on solid underground structures.

### **(Excerpt from: [500questions.wordpress.com/Did God Hang the Earth on Nothing or Set it on Pillars?](http://500questions.wordpress.com/Did-God-Hang-the-Earth-on-Nothing-or-Set-it-on-Pillars/))**

“A very interesting verse to consider is Job 26:7 which states that God ***“hangs the earth on nothing.”*** This verse expresses (in a poetic way) the fact that the earth is unsupported by any other object (floating in space) —something quite unnatural for the ancient writers to imagine, since they did not have all the scientific data researched about the earth today.

There are only two possibilities (floating or supported), and both are suggested in the Bible. We now have pictures of the earth taken from space that show it floating in the cosmic void. With the benefit of hindsight (and a little bias), today’s believer can now assert that *all* the verses about pillars *must* be metaphorical (figurative), while the single verse about hanging on nothing *must* be interpreted literally.

But imagine what would happen if we discovered the exact opposite were true, that the earth *was* supported in some way. It would be just as easy for believers to say, “God clearly knew the earth was supported! That is why He mentions it multiple times! And it ‘hangs on nothing,’ because it is supported from below!”

Either way, God gets it right.

***“He shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble.”***

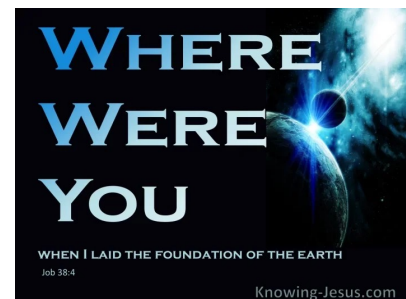
— Job 9:6.

***“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened?”***

— Job 38:4-

***“When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.”***

75:3.



## II. Verses 6-9 - Creation of the sea and dry land

**6 “You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. 7 But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; 8 they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. 9 You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.”**

**Fact #2. OCEANOGRAPHY** – The Bible accurately describes details of the depths of the ocean as having underwater springs and mountains.

Oceans contain springs of water. (Job 38:16 NIV) **“Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?”** The ocean is very deep. Almost all the ocean floor is in total darkness and the pressure there is enormous. When God questioned Job, He knew it would have been impossible for Job to have explored the "springs of the sea." Until recently, it was thought that oceans were fed only by rivers and rain. Yet in the 1970s, with the help of deep diving research submarines that were constructed to withstand 6,000 pounds-per-square-inch pressure, oceanographers discovered springs on the ocean floors.

Jonah 2:5-6 **“The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.**

The waters above the skies (firmament) came down on the mountains. They became rivers and seas when God shouted at them **“the sound of Your thunder”**. (verses 7-9).

The ancient Hebrews thought the sound of thunder was the voice of God. Genesis 1 describes how the early Earth was totally covered with water, and that God brought the land out of it, raising the seabed above sea level in certain places. Psalm 104 describes this same event, but includes another point that Genesis doesn't make: v. 9 **“You set a boundary, they [the waters] cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.”**

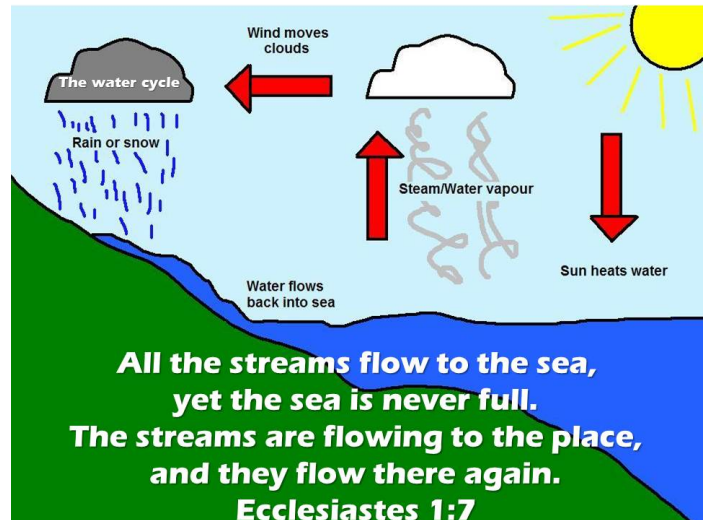
Some Bible scholars think this verse refers to Noah's Flood, when the waters covered the earth that came down from the firmament. There will never be another flood as in the days of Noah. This is good news for today, many people are afraid of "global warming". This means



that the earth is getting hotter, so the ice will become water and flood the “whole” earth. The psalmist said that this would not happen. He knew what God told Noah in Genesis 9:11: **“There will never be another flood to destroy the earth”**.

**Fact #3 METEOROLOGY: The Hydrological Cycle- Ocean & Weather Patterns.**

The Bible accurately describes the hydrologic cycle which includes: Evaporation – Condensation – Precipitation. The process by which clouds are formed, rain is produced and ground water is replenished. Science made the same discovery in the 1600s, long after the Bible passages were written.



**-Job 36:27-28 “He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.”**

**III. God’s Abundant Provision for the Feeding and Maintenance of All the Creatures According to Their Nature Psalm 104:10-18**

**(10) “You send forth springs in the valleys. They flow between the hills. (11) They provide drink to every beast of the field. The wild donkeys quench their thirst. (12) Beside them the birds of the heavens settle down. They sing among the branches. (13) He waters the mountains from His roof chambers. The earth is satisfied by the fruit of His work. (14) He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, plants for humans to cultivate to bring forth food from the earth, (15) and wine that gladdens the heart of man and oil that makes his face shine and food that sustains his heart. (16) The trees of Yahweh are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. (17) There the birds make their nests. The stork (makes) her home in the fir trees. (18) The high mountains (are) for the wild goats. The crags (cliff) are a refuge for the rock badgers.**

God’s (Yahweh’s) blessing in our world, such as water, is provided for all living creatures. We, who live in a city, take water for granted, way too much. We benefit from the rain God provides and from people who have knowledge of water management. When was the last time you gave thanks for water. Today, I thank you, Yahweh, for life giving water, for plants, animals, and people like me. Thank you for creating water and sustaining us with the constant return of clouds and rain.

Also, sustain my soul with your Holy Spirit like you do my body with water. God’s water and God’s Spirit are alike in this: they both create and sustain life, one is of the body, and the other is of the soul.

**Trivia Question: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? (verse 17)**

**V. Verses 19-26 - The Regular Course of the Sun and Moon (day & night) and the seasons; the vastness of the sea and all that dwells in it.**

*How is the orderliness of creation emphasized? (104:19-23)*

**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.**



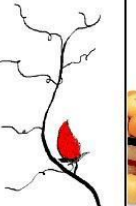









**Fact #4- ASTRONOMY – The Biblical creation account accurately addresses the seasons and the clock-like precision of the heavenly bodies to measure time.**

Genesis 1:14-16 “Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also.”

-Job 38:32 “Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?”

verse **19. “He made the moon to mark the seasons,”** The Hebrew calendar was built around seasons, recorded in Leviticus 23. The feasts of Israel were not mere holidays to be observed on the nearest Monday in order to provide a long weekend, such as what we experience in America.

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	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Firstfruits	Pentecost or Feast of Harvest	Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Tabernacles
<b>How and Why Feast was Celebrated</b>							
	The Jews of Egypt were saved by the blood of a lamb on their door ways.	Jews were to eat pure unleavened bread for one week.	The firstfruits of the spring harvest were to be sacrificed as the temple	This feast marked the summer harvest when many crops were available	During harvesting the trumpet would sound and all the workers would go to the temple immediately	Atonement will be made to cleanse you	Harvest celebration memorial of tabernacles in wilderness
	<b>FULFILLED</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>	Coming Soon		
<b>How God Fulfilled the Feast</b>		Clean out old leaven... just as you are in fact unleavened			<b>Rapture</b>		
	Christ God's Lamb has been sacrificed	Christ has paid our sins, we are now clean of sin	Christ has risen the firstfruits	The Holy Spirit has been released	The church will meet the Lord in the air	Atonement for sins	Celebration of the ones who are with God

Each was a symbolic occasion or season designed to teach a truth which God wants to impart to His people. A study of them will allow you to see where we are in history right now, where the nation of Israel is in God's program for it, what has been fulfilled in the past, and what lies yet unfulfilled in the future. Every believer in Jesus Christ proceeds through this same order of spiritual development.

***“The LORD said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, The appointed feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, my appointed feasts, are these. Six days shall work be done; but on the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation; you shall do no work; it is a sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.” (Leviticus 23:1-3 RSV).***

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

All the beasts of the field do prowl ( creep, sneak, stalk, hunt). They come out of their holes and dens, and hunt their prey, such as do the evening wolves, owls, and other animals.

“And as it would not be convenient for man and the wild beasts of the forest to collect their food *at the same time*, He has given the *night* to them as the proper time to procure their prey, and the *day* to rest in. When *MAN labors, THEY rest; when MAN rests, THEY labour.*” (–Adam Clarke)

Animals are not the only creatures that choose the night and darkness; all wicked men do the same, whose deeds are evil, and do not care to come to the light, lest they should be reproved; particularly drunkards, adulterers, thieves, and murderers. John 3:20 NKJV ***“For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.***

What did the psalmist learn from observing the sea? (104:24-26)

***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 move along, and Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.***

**P**salm 104:24-26 describes God's mastery over all the creatures of the earth. God is even the master of Leviathan, the mysterious sea creature sometimes described as a symbol of chaos and evil (Psalm 74:14). God vows to punish ***“leviathan that crooked serpent”*** by ***“slaying the dragon”*** (Isa. 27:1). ***“So leviathan there is “the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil”*** (Rev. 20:2). Breaking his head describes what God will do to Satan, in Genesis 3:15: ***“He shall bruise your head.”***



### **Leviathan in the Book of Job.**

The Book of Job states, the leviathan is described as a monster of the sea. In Job, God describes the leviathan as having “**terrible teeth**” and “**rows of scales**” that are so “**tightly bound**” that not even air gets through. He also describes the monstrous leviathan as sneezing “**flashes of light**” and spewing flames out of its mouth.



**(Job 41:12 – 21 Can you image a creature such as this, sporting, (playing games) in the sea?**

What is the spirit of this age?

(Bishop Lafayette Scales, Perilous Times III, 2023) NKJV Isaiah 27:1 ***“In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.”***

Leviathan, a reptile, is a crooked serpent. Leviathan, the twisted serpent. Leviathan, the piercing serpent. It penetrates the hearts and minds of its victims.

V. God's Sovereignty Over the Creatures and His creation (104: 27-30)

**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.”**

This section ends with two important claims: God gives all creatures their food (104:27-28) and God gives them the breath of life, without which they could not survive (verses 29-30). The second point says essentially the same thing as Genesis 2:7 which reports how God made the first human being from the dust of the ground and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews>).

VI. Verses 31-35 (Message Bible)- May the Glory of the LORD Endure For Ever, May the LORD Rejoice in His Work

**31 The glory of God - let it last forever! Let God enjoy His creation! 32 He takes one look at earth and triggers an earthquake, points a finger at the mountains, and volcanoes erupt. 33 Oh, let me sing to God all my life long, sing hymns to my God as long as I live! 34 Oh, let my song please Him; I'm so pleased to be singing to God. 35 But clear the ground of sinners - no more godless men and women! O my soul, bless God.**

“**God’s honor and glory, (Strong's H3519)** the Hebrew word is “kabob”, or “kavob” This word is often found in the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, and in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. As a noun, ‘kabod’ has two aspects of meaning:

1. First, ‘kabod’ can be translated as: weight, strength, power, ability.
2. Second, ‘kabod’ means honor, glory, magnificence, dignity, splendor.

In this second aspect of meaning, ‘kabod’ occurs mainly with regard to the Lord God Himself, His Divinity, Word, His name, works, sanctuary, and city.

‘The term ‘kabod’/glory is used in particular to describe the visible manifestation of God’s presence. After God led the people of Israel out of Egypt to Sinai, the ‘kabod’/glory of the LORD resided on the mountain as a consuming fire, including the covering cloud (Exodus 24:16-17). Only Moses had the great privilege of being there and speaking with the Lord face to face (Exodus 24:18; 33:9-11).

God’s ‘kabod’/splendor indicates his presence in the tabernacle and in sacrificial service and worship. Thus, the Lord promised to come to the Israelites during the sacrifice “... and it shall be sanctified by My ‘kabod’/glory” (Exodus 29:43). And when Moses had set up the tabernacle, God showed his presence in the midst of his people, for “... the ‘kabod’/glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:34-35). See also Leviticus 9:6; 9:23.

‘Kabod’/glory is also the expression of God’s presence at the ark of the covenant. That is why Eli’s grandson got the sad name ‘ICHABOD (no ‘kabod’/glory), after the Philistines took the ark of God.” **ICHABOD** (Heb. אִי־כָבוֹד, אִי־כָבוֹד, אִי־כָבוֹד), son of (\*Phinehas and grandson of \*Eli the priest at Shiloh) (I Sam. 4:19–22). Phinehas' wife was in labor when she received news of the capture of the Ark by the Philistines at Eben-Ezer and of the deaths of Phinehas, his brother Hophni, and her father-inlaw Eli. She died in childbirth after naming her son Ichabod, declaring, "The glory has departed from Israel." (BIBLWORD Dr. Annechiena Sneller-Vrolijk

**v. 35 “May sinners be removed from the earth, And may the wicked be no more.”**

If God once created and destroyed the world, (Noah’s flood) by His word, then His promised judgment will surely come to pass. As with the judgment of the flood, the focus of the future judgment is also due to human sin. Also, like the flood, in the future judgment the ungodly will be destroyed while those who are in a relationship with Jesus Christ, will be spared.

**2 Peter 3:5-7, 13 KJV**

**5. “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished (Noah’s period): 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

**13 “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness.”**

The Apostle Peter divides the history of the earth into three periods. The period before the earth was made "formless and void," or the "Primeval Earth," which He calls "the world that **“Then Was;”** the present period which he calls "the heavens and the earth which **“Are Now,”** and in which there has been no great change since the **restoration** of the earth, described in Genesis 9:1- **“Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth.”** And then, the promise of the New Heaven and Earth which is yet to come (future blessings).”

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