

# Psalms 104:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

## Analysis

**The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.** This verse transitions from describing God's works to declaring their purpose and His response to them. "The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever" (y'hi khvod Yahweh l'olam, יהי כבוד־יהוה לעולם) is both declaration and prayer. Kavod (כבוד) means glory, weight, or significance—God's manifest presence and revealed character. L'olam (לעולם) means forever, eternally, perpetually.

God's glory enduring forever means His revealed character—His power, wisdom, goodness, and majesty displayed in creation—will never be eclipsed or forgotten. Even when current creation is renewed (Revelation 21:1), God's glory continues, perhaps more fully revealed than in the present cosmos. The purpose of creation is not merely creaturely pleasure but the display of divine glory (Isaiah 43:7).

"The LORD shall rejoice in his works" (yismach Yahweh b'ma'asav, ישמח יהוה במעשיו) portrays God taking pleasure in what He has made. Samach (שמח) means to rejoice, be glad, or delight. This anthropomorphic language attributes joy to God—He isn't a distant, dispassionate deity but delights in His creation like an artist enjoying a completed masterpiece or a parent proud of their children.

This verse counters both dualism (which views material creation as evil) and deism (which views God as uninvolved after creating). God delights in the physical world He made, vindicating the biblical affirmation that creation was 'very good'

(Genesis 1:31). His ongoing joy in creation implies continued involvement, not abandonment.

## Historical Context

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The concept of God rejoicing in creation contrasts with ancient Near Eastern mythology, where gods often viewed humanity as burden or nuisance. The Babylonian Atrahasis epic depicts gods creating humans to do menial labor because divine work had become burdensome. In Psalm 104, God delights in creation—it brings Him pleasure, not trouble.

For Israel, God's rejoicing in His works provided assurance of His ongoing care. Despite struggles, suffering, or exile, creation's continuation testified to God's persistent delight and involvement. The regular patterns of nature—seasons, rainfall, harvests—demonstrated divine faithfulness and care.

Jesus taught that the Father cares for birds and flowers (Matthew 6:26-30, 10:29-31), extrapolating from God's delight in creation to His care for human beings made in His image. If God feeds ravens and clothes grass, how much more will He provide for His children? This argument depends on God's joy in His works—He doesn't view creation as tiresome obligation but delightful expression of creative love.

The doctrine of creation's goodness and God's delight in it has practical implications. It validates material existence, physical pleasures (within moral bounds), scientific study, artistic expression, and environmental care. Because God delights in creation, we should too, engaging it with gratitude, wonder, and responsible stewardship rather than exploitation or indifference.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. How does the promise that God's glory will endure forever provide hope when facing environmental degradation, cosmic entropy, or personal mortality?
2. What does it mean that God 'rejoices in his works,' and how should this shape our engagement with nature, science, and stewardship?
3. How can believers reflect God's joy in creation without falling into nature worship or pantheism?

### Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה	כְּבוֹד	וְדָוָד	יְהוָה	לְעוֹלָם	וְשִׂמְחָה	יְהוָה
H1961	The glory	of the LORD	shall endure for ever	shall rejoice	of the LORD	
	H3519	H3068	H5769	H8055	H3068	

  

בְּמַעֲשָׁיו:
in his works
H4639

### Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 1:31** (Parallel theme): And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

**2 Timothy 4:18** (Glory): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 3:21** (Glory): Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

**Isaiah 62:5** (Parallel theme): For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

**Jeremiah 32:41** (Parallel theme): Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

**Exodus 31:17** (References Lord): It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

**Romans 11:36** (Glory): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

**Zephaniah 3:17** (References Lord): The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

**Hebrews 13:21** (Glory): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Psalms 102:16** (Glory): When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.