

# Psalms 104:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys  
unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

## Analysis

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Waters flowing down from mountains to valleys demonstrate God's intentional geographic design. 'They go up...they go down' shows divine choreography of earth's topography. God didn't merely create but arranged creation purposefully. Each feature serves His design. This verse transitions from watery chaos to ordered landscape, showing God's providence in providing for creation. Christ's care for creation (Matt 6:26-30) reflects this same detailed providence. Reformed theology sees God's hand in every natural process.

## Historical Context

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The water cycle—evaporation, rain, rivers flowing to seas—was partially understood in ancient times. This verse describes observable natural processes while attributing them to God's sovereign design and command.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does observing nature's intricate design strengthen your faith in God's providential care?
2. What 'natural' processes in your life do you need to recognize as God's sovereign arrangement?

## Interlinear Text

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|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| יֵשְׁלֻ וְ        | הָרִים                   | יֵרְדוּ             | בְּקָעוֹת             | אֶל  | מָקוֹם                |
| <b>They go up</b> | <b>by the mountains</b>  | <b>they go down</b> | <b>by the valleys</b> | H413 | <b>unto the place</b> |
| H5927             | H2022                    | H3381               | H1237                 |      | H4725                 |
| וְהָ              | יָסַדְתָּ                | לָהֶם:              |                       |      |                       |
| <b>which</b>      | <b>thou hast founded</b> | H1992               |                       |      |                       |
| H2088             | H3245                    |                     |                       |      |                       |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 8:5** (Parallel theme): And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

**Psalms 33:7** (Parallel theme): He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.