

Psalm 8 – Majesty
Psalms Series
God’s Playlist for our Lives

A) This is week 2 in our new series in the book of Psalms – God’s Playlist for our Lives. –

B) Psalms is a collection of SONGS - Today we are looking at TRACK 8 – That is Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth,

Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies,

That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

4 What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?

5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

7 All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field,
8 The birds of the air,

And the fish of the sea

That pass through the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Lord,

How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Pray

C. S. Lewis called Psalm 8 an “exquisite”

A) This is a Psalm of David - It is short but powerful

B) Nine verses - Big idea – Your view of God will shape everything about you!

C) Outline for today

- Celebration of the majesty of God (1-2)
- Confession of the insignificance of man (3-4)
- Confounded by the opportunities that God gives man (5-8)

Celebrates the majesty of God (1-2)

V.1 O Lord, our Lord,

How excellent (Majestic) is Your name in all the earth,

Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

David begins with this rousing exclamation, “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent or majestic is Your name in all the earth....”

A) God’s name refers to who He is and what He has done,

B) It refers to the perfection of His attributes and the mightiness of His deeds.

C) David uses two words for God in this expression Oh Lord our Lord –

D) The first word translated “LORD” is the Hebrew word, Yahweh, God’s personal covenant name.

1) The covenant *keeping God*.

D) To put that another way – He is the God who keeps His promises.

1) He can be TRUSTED- HE is the God that you can COUNT on!

The second “Lord” is the Hebrew “Adonai,” meaning sovereign

A) The One who has not only the ability but the authority.

B) God is above all things – God is over all things – God is greater than all things –

1) He is a Sovereign King

C) How excellent or majestic is your name! The word “majestic” implies royalty,

1) a concept which we as Americans do not properly understand or appreciate.

D) In Ancient times - to come into the presence of a king on his throne was frightening and awe-inspiring

E) When Israel celebrated God’s mighty deliverance after the crossing of the Red Sea they sang (Exod. 15:11), “Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?”

The idea: There is no one like you! –

A)NO one compares – nothing compares –

B)Their God had just take down the World empire of Egypt!

C)Henry Norris Russell, the Princeton astronomer, had concluded a lecture on the Milky Way, a woman came to him and asked, **“If our world is so little, and the universe is so great, can we believe God really pays any attention to us?”**

D)Dr. Russell replied, **“That depends, madam, entirely on how big a God you believe in.”** :)

Your view of God will shape everything about you!

A)David believed in an awesome God –

B)**The story of David and Goliath** is one of the most well-known and exciting stories in the OT

C)Army of Israel – one hill – the army of the philistines on the other hill and the valley of Elah in between –

Out comes the Philistine Giant Goliath – twice a day for 40 days =80x

A)Send me a man ... (Shaking in their sandals)

B)No one dared fight him

C)Here comes David – on an errand for his dad – food for his bros

1)Hears Goliath going off

D)David responds who is this uncircumcised Philistine.....

1)I will fight him.

Why did David view Goliath so differently?

A)Because of David’s view of God –

B)David saw the Giant in view of his God – David’s God is Big – Majestic

1)**Therefore Goliath was small in light of his God!**

C)Some Scholarship puts the writing of Psalm 19 happening -right before -David went to this battle

D)Psalm 19 begins **The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.**

E)David comes to this scene being captivated by the Awesomeness of God – He sees Goliath in that light –

1)**Puny** – nothing in comparison to MY GOD!

Scholarship also believes that David wrote this Psalm shortly after this battle with Goliath –

A)Because in the Hebrew text it is given the title – **“the death of the Champion.”**

B)Regardless of when these Psalms were written – it is CLEAR that David had a big view of God –

1)David was captivated by the majesty of God – the Awesomeness of God

C)Application for us – Giants turn into grasshoppers and Mountains turn into Molehills –

1)**when we see them in light of the greatness of God**

D)Question – How do you see God?

DAVID Begins to share where he sees the Majesty of God

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained (established) strength,

Because of Your enemies,

That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

A)David says that it is **“from the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength”**

B)What does he mean?

C)I think that John Calvin was right when he said that **“the process of the conception and birth of an infant displays God’s splendor so clearly that even a nursing infant brings down to the ground the fury of God’s enemies.”**

Interesting that Calvin didn’t know what we know today about child birth

A)He was simply referring to the beauty and wonder of new born life

B)The biological process of Child birth is amazing.

C)At nine months after conception, the baby’s brain sends a hormone through the placenta and into the mother’s pituitary gland.

1)Although **it is a complicated chemical**, its message is simple: **“I’m ready! It’s time!”**

D)All of the baby’s complex systems—its lungs, heart, gastro/intestinal system,

1)It’s nervous system, and brain—are ready to make it on their own.

E)But The baby’s skull has not yet fused, so that it can be pliable enough to fit through the birth canal.

As the process starts, the baby’s adrenal glands add a shot of stress hormones to help the baby cope.

A)The child will not breathe until it has cleared the birth canal. If it breathed too soon, it would suffocate.

B)But if it waited too long, it would suffer brain damage. – **There is a divine Exact timing**

C)And Just before the mother and child separate,

1)the newborn gets a last-minute blood transfusion through the umbilical cord.

D)AND The placenta has stored the nutrients the baby **needs for this exact moment.**

E)Child birth is incredible!

1)How can a person look at a baby and say that it happened by sheer chance, apart from a Creator?

It is also interesting to note that -Psalm 8 is quoted a number of times in the NT, including on one occasion by Jesus.

A)Triumphal entry - He had entered Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.

B) While he was in the temple area, the children who had observed the triumphal entry continued to praise him, crying, **“Hosanna to the Son of David.”**

C)This made the chief priests and teachers of the law indignant. But Jesus replied, referring to Psalm 8, **“Have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’?”** (Matt. 21:16).

D)This made the religious leaders even more mad

1)Because by identifying the praise of the children of Jerusalem with Psalm 8,

E)Jesus not only validated what the kids were saying about him was true—

1)Be he was also saying that he was indeed the long awaited Messiah.

F)Thus the Lord overcomes His enemies by the marvel of little children and the praise that they sing in their simple faith.

SO David sees the majesty of God in the child birth –

A)He also sees it in Creation

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

B)When Galileo first turned a telescope on the sky-

1)he announced to an astonished world that the earth was not the center of the universe

C)The Pope at that time was outraged and ordered him to recant.

D)We like to think that we are the center of the Universe right?

1)NOTHING HAS CHANGED

David as a Shepherd boy in the fields with his sheep –

A)No doubt spend many nights – under the stars – **INCREDIBLE**

B)There is the evidence of God’s greatness—look at the moon and stars.

C)I like how he puts it - They are the work of God’s fingers,

1)The Bible speaks of God’s arm, it speaks of God’s hand, BUT HERE David speaks of God’s fingers.

D)There is far less power in a finger than there is in an arm.

E)The Point? To create stars and satellites and suns God needed only His fingers!

1)That’s how great He is.

I wonder what David would have said if he were able like we can today – look through a *telescope*

A)What would he have thought if he knew what we know!

B)The sheer vastness of outer space and the coordination of it all is astounding.

C)If you could travel at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, **it would take you 8 minutes to get from earth to the sun.**

B)To go from the sun to the center of the Milky Way galaxy it would take you traveling at the speed of light 186,000 miles per second

1)**It would take about 33,000 years.**

C)That is how VAST – our galaxy is

1)The Milky Way is just one galaxy located in a vast cluster of galaxies known as the Local Group.

D)This group contains more than 50 galaxies (mostly dwarf galaxies).

E)The total size of the Local Group is 10 million light-years across, and it's estimated to have a mass of 1.29 billion solar masses

THIS THING IS HUGE FOLKS!

A)Earth is just a spec in the Universe – in the whole make up of what God has CREATED

B)David's celebration of the majesty of God found in creation

1)led him in the 2nd STANZA -in a **Confession of the insignificance of man (3-4)**

3When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

4 What is man that You are mindful of him,

And the son of man that You visit him?

How AMAZING AND wonderful is this!

A)God is more interested in **people** than He is in planets, more interested in **souls** than He is in stars,

B)He is more interested IN US than He is in the universe! – **BC - interested in us He visits us.**

C)He sent his son to visit us – to REDEEM US – RESCUE US

Two words for man are used here in Psalm 8.

A)verse 4 what is man is *enosh*, “weak man,” and “son of man” is “son of *adamah*—**son of the earth, earth-born**”

B)Both titles emphasize the weakness and frailty of humankind.

C)Why does God pay any attention to weak people like us!

D)Isaiah's experience – Isaiah 6 **Saw the Lord ... throne... holy**

1)Woe is me! – I am undone – nothing – not worthy

E)Why does God pay any attention to frail creatures like us? It is a MYSTERY

LED David in stanza #3 to be Confounded by God's goodness to man (5-8)

A)There are three aspects to his confoundedness - saw the first one already

B)He is confounded #1 In the greatness of the attention that God pays man.

1) That God is mindful of us at all. – WHY EVEN CONSIDERED US

C)#2 In the greatness of the nature that God has given man.

5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

Lower than the angels – but higher than the animal kingdom.

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

D)How has God Crowned with GLORY and HONOR?

Man ALONE has uniquely been made in the image of God!

A)Genesis 1 - ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness

B)Mankind uniquely made in the image of God – Moral compass – discern right *from wrong* –

C)Mankind – uniquely made to live in relationship

1)First relationship with God – but 2nd relationship with each other

D)That is why this whole isolation thing – cannot last – IT is never God’s intent for man to live in isolation.

Created to live in relationships – To interact with each other.

A)God said of Adam – it is not good for man to be ALONE

B)THINK ABOUT THAT STATEMENT:

1)Adam has God – but God said he needs someone like himself – talk to – touch – interact with

C)Made Woman! Ordained marriage – Said – Be Fruitful – multiply

D)Populate the earth with other image bearers!

E)Who have been uniquely made by God to live NOT IN ISOLATION –

1)but in relationship with me and with each other

That is why we have to during this time that we are in too resist the temptation to get comfortable in our isolation

A)Be intentional about – connecting – zoom studies – phone calls

B)And soon as we are able in small group gatherings

C)David is confounded by the greatness of the attention God pays man the fact that God thinks of man at all.

D)Confounded - In the greatness of the nature God has given man

1)That man has been crowned with glory and honor – uniquely created in the image of God – VALUED

#3 In the greatness of the authority that God has entrusted to man-

A)He has given man Dominion

B)Note this – David’s worldview and view of man is directly taken from THE BIBLE – from scripture

C)Quoting here from the concept of Genesis 1-2

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air,- And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

D)Genesis 1-2 language

E)Reminded last week – Track 1 Psalm 1 –

1)the blessed man/woman is the one who DELIGHTS IN the Word – meditates day and night

2)David knew that by experience

David is confounded here in Psalm 8 that God has shared his rule with man, making him ruler over HIS creation

A)That was their mission – Love God – Love each other – **and take care of what he has entrusted into their hands - Dominion**

B)That was the way they would be image bearers of God –bringing glory and honor to God

1) and that is what they were to pass on to other image bearers

C)This is how we live lives that bring glory and honor to God!

1)We love God – we love each other – we take care of what he has entrusted to us

But here is THE PROBLEM: Man didn’t do that

A)MAN rebelled – man did his own thing – went his own way – sought his own glory

B)The writer of Hebrews put it this way - Hebrews 2:6-9

*“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?
7 You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.
8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”*

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. **But now we do not yet see all things put under him.**

C)When mankind rebelled against God – we forfeited our dominion over this world –

1)We lost our privilege of ruling with God

D)The planet was given over to Satan – he is called the god of this world – prince of the power of the air

1)He is set on destruction and further rebellion

We look at all the problems in our world – MESS!

A)ALL STEMS FROM THE FALL – MAN’S REBELLION – Satan’s overthrow – and plan for destruction –

B)Praise God – that he didn’t leave us in our mess – He saw the mess that we made of his planet – our lives –

C)Man who had been crowned with glory and honor – became Ichabod – the glory has departed

D)God did something about that – He visited us - He sent his Son Jesus – to Rescue us

But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

A)But this is what we do see – we see Jesus – The writer of Hebrews continues

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

B)We see Jesus –regained the glory and honor –

1)when he came to our rescue – became one of us –a man – made a little lower than the Angels –

C)TO Suffer in our place – punishment that we deserved –

D)That we could be redeemed – Rescued – Glory Restored

Our Mission has been expanded

A)God says – The Mission – Love me – Love each other – take care of what I have entrusted to you.

B)Bring me glory and honor living your lives – for me – my glory

1)Show other image bearers – what living is really about –

2)made to live in relationship with God – made to live and bring glory to God

C)But then God expanded the mission – I want you to partner with me in my Mission to REDEEM LOST MAN

D)YOU TELL THE WORLD – THE GOODNEWS – what my son has done for them!

Friends we are so blessed – we have an even greater reason to proclaim like David does when he ends this Psalm *O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!*

Amen

Next step questions

1. Do you have big view of God?
2. How does your view of God play out in your daily life?
3. In what ways are you seeking live on mission?

How are you Living according to the mission that God has given us, to love him, love each other, to take care of what he has placed in our hands and tell the others the good news that Jesus has come to redeem this world?