

10. The Book of Psalms 8:5-9

Glory of God-Part 4

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(7-6-25)

Find this week's sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

For the last few weeks, we have been looking at Psalm 8.

Psalm 8 is one of the more prominent psalms in that it is quoted 3 times in the New Testament—Matt. 21:16; 1Cor. 15:27; and Heb. 2:5-9.

I've entitled Psalm 8, "**The Glory of God**" and divided it into 4 main points:

- I. **The Glory of God's Name**—verses 1-2
- II. **The Glory of God's Creation**—verses 3-4
- III. **The Glory of God as Reflected in Man**—verses 5-8
- IV. **The Glory of God's Coming Kingdom**—verses 9

First let's recap last week's verses:

III. **The Glory of God as Reflected in Man**—verses 5-8

Psalm 8:5–8 (NKJV)

⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels [Elohim = God], 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.

A. **Man made in God's image**

When God said in Genesis 1:26, "*Let Us [the Trinity is speaking] make man in Our image*"—what exactly does that mean?

1. Just as God is a Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), so He made man a tripartite being (spirit, soul, and body).
2. Just like God, man has been given the ability to think and communicate in abstract concepts (*beauty, truth, love, peace, righteousness etc.*).
3. God has given to man the ability to reason and make decisions based on *information* and not just respond to situations *instinctively* like animals, insects and so on.

4. God created man with the laws of God written in his heart—in other words man is a moral being (unlike animals).
5. God created man with the ability to be creative—to *conceptualize* and *invent* things that go beyond anything lower forms of life can do.
6. But most of all, unlike other creatures, man has been given the ability by God to “*worship Him*.”

B. God made in man’s image

Without a doubt, the greatest glory of God as reflected in man—was through the incarnation, where God became a Man and dwelt among us!

John 1:1–3, 14 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The work Jesus came to fulfill on earth was 2-fold:

1. To show this world what God was really like

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God...

The word “image” is a Greek word that expresses the idea of *manifestation*.

Paul is telling us that Jesus is the exact *manifestation* of God in human form. The word was used of an image made by *impression* as when Caesar’s image was stamped on a coin. God the Father “*stamped*” His image on human flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ—this allowed people to see what God is like.

God is Spirit and is therefore invisible but through the incarnation the invisible God became a visible flesh and blood Man—

John 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared *Him* [‘*revealed Him*’ or ‘*made Him known*’].

John 14:9 (NLT)

⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

Why was it so important that Jesus show this world what God was like?

It was important because, the Jewish people had so rebelled against God over the years that they kept seeing the wrath and judgment side of God’s nature—this gave them a warped view of what God was really like.

It caused many of them to fear Him as an angry, judgmental, *‘fire-breathing’* God—a God that was looking for any reason to *‘bring the hammer down’* upon them and cast them into hell!

And this caused many Jewish people to have a difficult time getting close to Him.

Now of course, that was sad and completely unwarranted seeing as how God had already revealed Himself to Moses—as we pointed out a few weeks ago when we looked at the glory of God as revealed in His name:

Exodus 34:5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, in the way He loved people, healed them, provided for them, and forgave them (woman caught in the act adultery)—it caused sinners to know that God genuinely loved them.

It taught them that God wasn’t angry with them and that He wanted to forgive them and was inviting them to come to Him for salvation and live with Him forever in His Kingdom. That caused sinners (tax-collectors, prostitutes and others) to be drawn to Him.

So, again, Paul declared in Colossians 1:15—Jesus is **“the image of the invisible God”** or in other words, He is the perfect manifestation of the Father in human form. That brings us to the second reason Jesus came to earth, the second work He came to fulfill:

2. To die on Calvary’s Cross to redeem us back to God by paying our debt

Colossians 2:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

When Paul talks about the *“handwriting of requirements that was against us”*—it’s a term that means—*“the bill, the record of sins—the debt we owed God.”*

The Bible says that every sin that a person commits against God’s Law (of which the Ten Commandments are a part) is a debt that he or she owes Him (*“forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”*).

Just like when a criminal finishes his time in prison we say, *“He has paid his debt to society”*— the same idea applies to those who break God’s laws.

Every sin is a crime against the Holy God of the universe and is written in our *‘ledger’* (our *‘RAP Sheet’*—*an official document detailing a person’s criminal history*)—and these crimes (sins) must be paid for. **The problem is that sinners can’t pay for their sins**—it would take the innocent dying in their place.

**Only one Man was born sinless and lived an entirely sinless life,
and only that Man, Jesus Christ, could die for our sins—**

which He willingly chose to do.
(*"No one takes My life I give it freely for the sheep."*—John 10:18).

As the hymn so beautifully expresses:

"He paid a debt He did not owe; I owed a debt I could not pay; I needed someone to wash my sins away; And now I sing a brand-new song, "Amazing Grace," Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay."

So, Jesus came to earth to pay our debt so we could be forgiven—

Isaiah 53:5–6 (NLT)

⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When Paul says in Colossians 2:14 that Jesus took our sins away, *"having nailed our debt to His cross"*—he is referring to a practice back then by which guilty criminals paid their debt to society. In Paul's day when a person was convicted of a crime or crimes the authorities would write those crimes on a piece of parchment paper and nail it to his dungeon door.

When he finished paying for his crimes, they would take the parchment and write across the bottom *"tetelestai"* which meant **"paid in full."** It was then given to him and became his *'receipt'*—his proof that his debt to society for the crimes he had committed had been fully paid for.

Paul is saying that Jesus took all the sins (crimes) we had ever or would ever commit against God's laws, everything that would ever be written in our ledger and—nailed it to His cross.

Jesus, before He died, from the cross said, *"It is finished"* (tetelestai)—**"paid in full."**

Psalms 8:5–8 (NKJV)

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.

Fun Fact:

"Matthew Maury was an American naval officer and oceanographer in the 1800's. During a night of discouragement and depression, Maury's wife, according to his diary, read the Bible out loud to him. As she read to him Psalm 8, verse eight caught his attention. Being a devoted Christian and student of the Bible, Maury believed that if the Bible said there were paths in the sea, then there must be, and he would find them. He believed the Bible was scientifically accurate.

Matthew studied old ship's logs. From these logs he compiled charts of the ocean and the wind and sea currents. To study the speed and direction of the ocean currents, Maury set adrift weighted bottles called "drift bottles." They floated slightly below the surface of the water and were not affected by the wind. Instructions were put into these bottles, directing people that found them to return them with the information requested which

included the date they were found and their location. The data that was compiled helped Matthew to chart the paths of the sea...

Before Maury charted the best paths from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, it took ships 180 days to go from New York to San Francisco. Maury's charts reduced the travel time to 133 days. The ship 'Flying Cloud', made the journey in 90 days in 1851.

Maury saved merchants and ship owners in the United States \$2 million dollars per year and European owners \$10 million per year. He was lauded with praise, gifts, and honors from businessmen, politicians, and educators from all over the United States.

He died in 1873, and upon his tombstone at the U.S. Naval Academy these words were inscribed from Psalm 8, "Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the sea." Matthew Maury was honored because he was not ashamed to believe God's Word is scientifically accurate."

IV. The Glory of God in His Kingdom—verse 9

Psalm 8:9 (NKJV)

⁹ O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

We see the same statement used by David to begin Psalm 8—and now he uses it to end this psalm. That statement could simply be praise to God in general for His glory revealed in the creation of the physical universe (including and especially man made in His image).

Or it could be that the idea David is expressing when he says that the excellent name of the Lord is in all the earth—is a reference to Jesus' reigning in the coming Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Hebrews 2:5-9 tells us that Psalm 8:5-8 is ultimately about Jesus and His eventual reign over the earth during the Kingdom Age:

Psalm 8:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels [Elohim = God], 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...

When we talk about the glory of God expressed in His coming Kingdom we're talking about His character being put on full display during the Kingdom Age.

God's glory is rooted in His '*eternal, intrinsic, attributes*' like—justice, truth, righteousness, love, mercy etc.

Habakkuk 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

I have decided not to go into detail about the Kingdom Age as there are many other psalms that talk about it in much greater detail—so we'll wait till we study one of those to go deeper into this subject. But for the remainder of our time this morning—let me give you some introductory thoughts on the subject of God's Kingdom.

Let me start off by saying that the coming of Messiah to establish His Kingdom upon the earth was the hope of every Jew—sometimes the only hope that kept them going during some of the most difficult times in their history.

Can you imagine being captive in Babylon and reading:

Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 11:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 60:1-3 (NLT2)

¹ “Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you. ² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth [now], but [then] the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. ³ All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. [Kingdom Age]

At Jesus’ First Coming, the nation of Israel rejected Him as their Messiah and King—and so the *light* of the Kingdom had to move *inward* and shine in the *hearts* of those who received Him *personally* as their Savior and King.

Luke 17:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation [outwardly, visibly]; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

In other words, to be a member of God’s Kingdom, it starts “within you” where a person receives the King to reign in their heart—and then someday the Kingdom will come outwardly when Jesus returns to establish it upon the earth at His Second Coming.

Let me say this and we’ll close—there are currently 2 kingdoms that people are subject to—2 entirely different ‘worlds’ or ‘kingdoms’ one of which every person belongs to.

The Bible tells us that they are connected to 2 different states of being:

- the state of “*spiritual death*” and
- the state of “*spiritual life*.”

Spiritual death is entered into thru physical birth—as every member of th human race is born in Adam and as such is born ‘*dead in trespasses and sins*.’ (Ephesians 2:1)

Spiritual life is entered into when a person receives Jesus as their Savior and is ‘born-again’.

These two births become the entry points into two very different kingdoms, ruled by two very different kings—the God of the universe (Yahweh) and the ‘*god of this world*’ (Satan).

The Bible calls God’s Kingdom—a Kingdom of “*light and life*”; and it calls Satan’s kingdom—a kingdom of “*death and darkness*.”

When Jesus told the Pharisees in John 8 that—He was from above (heaven) and they were from beneath (this fallen world system)—He was making reference to these two kingdoms.

Then when Jesus said in verse 12 of John Chapter 8—*"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life"*, He was essentially telling them that the supernatural God of heaven (the God of Light) invaded the natural realm (a world of darkness) thru the Incarnation. (John 1:5)

That by dying on the cross and rising from the dead—He opened the way for every human being to be able to cross from the realm of death and darkness (Satan's kingdom) into God's Kingdom of life and light—*"I am the Way..."* (John 14:6)

In John 3 when Jesus talked about the new birth, He said that all those who experience this birth are *'born from above'* (or 'born-again')—in other words, they are born into heaven's family—the family of God!

The good news is that God is inviting anyone who is willing to be a part of His family—but *you can't 'join it', you have to be **born into it***! To be born into it, you must believe in and receive Jesus as your Savior at which time—you are born into the family of God and have passed from death (spiritual) into glorious everlasting life!

Let me close by saying once again, that to be a member of God's Kingdom, it starts "within you" where a person receives the King to reign in their heart. Once Jesus, the King of kings reigns in your heart (inwardly)—then someday when He returns to the earth to establish His Kingdom outwardly—you will be a part of it!

But the benefits start right now...

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Catch this weeks' audio, video, study and sermon notes [HERE](#).