Vision 2026: Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Psalm, chapter eight.

Psalms are in the Old Testament, which is the first part of your Bible. The second part is called the New Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

Change the Atmosphere

Psalm 8:1-2

Psalm 8:1 *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. *NKJV*

A. The Psalmist David opens this Psalm with "*O LORD our LORD*" – Yehovah Adonai – He calls on the Covenant Name of God & declares His Sovereignty (Adonai).

   a. Then he proclaims, "*How excellent is Your name in **all** the earth*." He is God of more than just Israel!

   b. I think the church, in general, has a difficult time praising the LORD beyond our five senses. (Sight, Smell, Taste, Hearing & Touch) – limitations –

      i. Our natural senses are far beneath the glory of Yehovah.

      ii. Even the glory you behold in the heavens are not the ceiling of His glory. They are the floor of it. Solomon said: "*Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee*" ***(1 Kings 8:27)***.

B. David recognizes God's awesome majesty in creation.

   And the majesty of God on the earth is not enough. The heavens must also affirm His glory!

   a. The Psalmist wants you to recognize the vastness of the heavens & the stars. – To see the strength of God in His creation.

   b. If God’s glory is that high, then what is man that He would even think of us (v. 4)?

C. What is man that He would even think of us – Yet we see something powerful our glorious God places before you. That is what we will look at today.

Remember the application:

I. Change the Atmosphere

A. Preposterous Praise

a. David goes from the declaration of the glory, majesty & power of God in His creation to among the weakest, most feeble beings of God's creation; babies & infants.

Mid-verse 2 from them, "*You have ordained strength.*" – Preposterous Praise –

i. Ordained (yasad), "*to lay a foundation, appoint.*"

ii. Praise God in the middle of your crisis & see if God won't confuse your enemy. – ***1 Corinthians 1:27*** *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty* –

iii. You may think praise is one of the weakest weapons you have, but it is mighty in God!

b. Listen to this, praise, which God inhabits, dwells in, silences the enemy & brings you into rest.

i. NKJV says, “silence.” KJV says, “still.” – Hebrew is (שָׁבַת) shaw-vath’ – which is a root word. – It is the root word for Sabbath.

ii. Genesis records Creation in six days, the seventh day God “*ended His work*”, He “*rested on the seventh day*.” – The same Hebrew word that says praise from the mouth of babes & infants will still, will silence the enemy.

iii. Exalt your majestic, glorious God – Yehovah Adonai – above the enemy & God will give you rest. Shaw-vath, Sabbath!

c. You may appear powerless, but praise brings the presence of God into your situation.

Transition: "Well, I don't know if I believe that! That is preposterous!" – God Chooses the Foolish things! –

B. Weakness = Great Results

a. Exodus 14 – Israel's Exodus, Pharoah's army – The Red Sea – The Rod of Moses

No magic in the rod… A foolish thing in the hand of Moses… Preposterous Praise in the mouth of babes

When you face an impossible situation – Preposterous Praise.

b. Judges 15 – Samson was arrested & taken to the Philistines – When the Philistines were coming at him, he broke free & took the jawbone of an a**, donkey… and slaughtered 1K men.

God ordained, appointed the donkey to die & leave the jawbone for Samson… A foolish thing…

When you feel overwhelmed by the enemy – Preposterous Praise.

c. **1 Samuel 17** – David & Goliath; Saul's army fled but David appeared foolish steps up & runs at the giant with a sling & five smooth stones.

Why would a young shepherd, not trained in war take on a warrior giant much less with a sling shot? – Preposterous Praise.

When others tell you to quit, don't try, give up… Open your mouth as a babe in Christ & offer Him Preposterous Praise!

d. **1 Kings 17** – Prophet Elijah, a widow & her son (ready to die because of famine)… Elijah instructs her to make a little bread for him first & here is the LORD's promise:

'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'

When all hope is gone… Trust the Word of the LORD, He will never fail.

C. POINT

a. I want to close with reading our text from The Passion Translation.

Psalm 8:1 *Yahweh, our Sovereign God, your glory streams from the heavens above, filling the earth with the majesty of your name! People everywhere see your splendor.* ***2*** *You have built a stronghold by the songs of children. Strength rises up with the chorus of infants. This kind of praise has power to shut Satan's mouth. Childlike worship will silence the madness of those who oppose you.* TPT

b. Are you ready to offer Preposterous Praise to the Majestic, Glorious Creator of the heavens & the earth & shut the mouth of Satan?

II. Conclusion

A.

a.

b.

B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **<u>He asks us to</u>:**
  * *Repent*
  * *Live by Faith*
  * *Be Baptized*
  * *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.