

Psalm 8

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. A psalm of David.

- ¹ *Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.*
- ² *Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.*
- ³ *When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*
- ⁴ *what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*
- ⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.*
- ⁶ *You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:*
- ⁷ *all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,*
- ⁸ *the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.*
- ⁹ *Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

INTRO to series “Summer in Psalms” – The Hebrew Psalms in our Bible are filled with ancient prayers, poems, laments, hymns, and spiritual songs written by God’s people throughout many generations. As the Holy Spirit spoke through them, their words of praise and faith were collected into five books with 150 different psalms.

Our Summer series will survey several of the Psalms which proclaim God’s faithfulness in all generations. They also call on us to trust the Lord in our own generation, seeking His best purposes in our homes, our church, and the world in which we live. A special part of this summer series will be the incorporation of music and singing led by our worship teams based on the Psalms we study.

INTRO to **Psalm 8**: This psalm is what is a “praise psalm,” and it begins and ends with the same worshipful declaration: *Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

An important question for this week: What does it mean to be human?

I. God alone is worthy of praise, and His glory is seen throughout all of creation. (vs. 1-2)

-As we read this Psalm of David in its context, we can imagine the young shepherd boy laying on his back in the middle of the fields in Bethlehem at night, looking up at the incredibly clear skies and marveling at the wonder of God's creation.

-All that God is, and that God does, and all that God has made is worthy of praise from every part of creation, including from the oldest to the youngest person.

-The enemies of God, whether spiritual or human—*the foe and the avenger* who set themselves against God's purposes—they are overcome by praise even from the youngest who cry out.

II. Though God created everything that exists in the heavens and on earth, He still cares about us as human beings. (vs. 3-4)

-In **vs. 3**, the language shifts from the plural "Our Lord" to the singular: *When "I" consider...* This shift in person indicates that David is moving from corporate praise to a personal reflection on God's love and activity in His life.

-David describes God's work in the heavens as if He has literally traced out and dotted the moon and all the stars He set in place.

-The vastness of God's creation could easily make humanity seem insignificant, but instead the Bible says that God cares deeply for us.

-**vs. 4** – the exact center of this psalm – comes back to the question of what it means to be human: *What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?*

III. God has set human beings apart that He might be uniquely glorified in and through us. (vs. 5-9)

-As David considered God's hand in making the cosmos, and his own relationship—and the relationship of all mankind to God our creator—then he also pondered humankind's relationship to the rest of creation.

-David now marvels at the wonder that human beings, though positioned a little lower than the angels, are crowned with glory and honor that comes from God Himself.

-God also gave human beings stewardship, as He delegated responsibility for other parts of creation to us (**vs. 6-8**).

-The Bible says that God loves us so much as the part of His creation made in His image and made as His “workmanship,” that He raised us up with Christ so that we might share in His glory, in the riches of His grace, and in the gift of faith (see **Ephesians 2:4-8** below).

-Psalm 8 is not pointing us to a different world or to the next life – it’s a reminder of God’s glory with us now in creation and its order. It’s a reflection on all that God has made in the heavens and on the earth—from the grandest to the most microscopic—and most importantly it reminds that because of the great love, grace, and mercies of God, we can have a relationship with the One True and Holy God who is our Creator, right here and now.

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Matthew 21:14-16: *The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.*

¹⁶ *“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.*

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

*“From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?”*

Ephesians 2:4-6: *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-“Through this name, in fact, death was dissolved, demons imprisoned in bonds, heaven opened, gates of paradise thrown wide, the Spirit sent down, slaves made free, enemies become sons, strangers become heirs . . . The wall was removed, the partition dissolved, what were separated were united, darkness was banished, light shone, death was swallowed up.” –John Chrysostom