

Psalm 8 – Majestic, Mindful, Messiah, and Management

Michael Silva / Aug 18, 2019

Opening: Sabbatical

- The Sabbatical was not given to be a duty, but rather a delight. It's supposed to be a day in which we take delight in the Lord.
 - a) It's a day for us to draw near to God and experience Him in greater ways.
 - b) It's often only in the times of stillness before God that we are able to appreciate who God is and what He has done.
 - c) This world and the enemy have a way of distracting us and keeping us from being wowed by the excellence of our creator God.

- ❖ The Psalm we are looking at today was likely written in the midst of one of those still moments before God.

Introduction: We are continuing our study in the Psalms, the hymnbook of the Bible.

1. In the Psalms we find real emotions and struggles being expressed to the Lord.
 - a) In the midst of those struggles we are reminded that God is **sovereign** and that regardless of our circumstances **He is worthy of praise**.
2. RECAP:
 - a) In **Psalm 1** we were reminded to **Sit, Stand, and Walk in the Word**.
 - b) In **Psalm 2** the Psalmist declared gospel message... **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him**.
 - c) In **Psalms 3 & 4**... **Rest in the Lord w/ Gladness & Peace** - David shows us by example that if we will rest in the Lord he will bring us gladness of heart, peace, and rest.
 - d) In **Psalm 5** we saw David's example of **Seeking, Looking Up, Departing, & Worshiping**.
 - e) In **Psalms 6 & 7** we were exhorted to **Repent, Trust in Trials, and Love & Pray**.

That brings us to: Psalm 8 (NKJV)ⁱ

1. I've **summarized** our passage today **Majestic, Mindful, Messiah, and Management**.

Psalm 8:TITLE To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.

1. David is the author. He may have written this out in the desert while on the run from King Saul.

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2. C.H. Spurgeon called this the Psalm of the Astronomer.
3. An **Instrument of Gath** is believed to be a lyre.
4. This is consider a messianic psalm.

Psalm 8:1 ¹O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

1. The name LORD is called the tetragrammaton, literally YHWH in Hebrew.
 - a) This name was never pronounced or spoken aloud, though the names Jehovah or Yahweh have been derived from this title.
2. Next David writes, **our Lord**, a different Hebrew word - אֲדֹנָי adon (Adonai in the plural)
 - a) It's a name that could be pronounced and simply means "**My Lord**"
 - i) This name carries the idea of intimacy and "sovereignty."
3. Concerning this name, David declares... **How excellent** – majestic (alt trans),
 - a) The basic definition of majestic is having or showing impressive beauty or dignity.
 - b) The idea is that the name of the Lord is elevated above all other names.
4. This is a foreshadowing the coming of Jesus for His name is the most excellent name!
 - a) **Philippians 2:9–11** ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - b) This is why Satan has tried to attack and devalue the name of God and Jesus.
 - c) Why are the names from other religions not used as swear words...?
 - i) Because their names have no power.
 - d) The Model Prayer: Hallowed by your name...

Psalm 8:2 ²Out 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.

1. **ordained** – established (alt trans), **strength**.
 - a) **1 Corinthians 1:27** 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;

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- i) God shows His strength through the weak and small things of this world.
 - b) A young child with faith is one of the most powerful forces on earth...
 - i) God demonstrates His power through them in putting to [silence the enemy and the avenger](#).
2. Moreover, this is a call to have Child-like faith.
- a) **Matthew 18:3-5** ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.
 - b) J. Vernon **McGee**, commenting on this said, “I think this means that you and I must be born again and become little children. Like little children, we put aside all of our boasting and come in simple faith. How tremendous is the faith of a little child.”
3. Pride becomes one of our greatest obstacles that prevents us from doing this.
- a) Pride stunts and hinders our faith.
 - b) Pride was one of the major stumbling blocks for the religious officials in Jesus’s day.
 - c) Jesus quoted this Psalm in **Matthew 21:14-16** – [read this cross-reference]

Psalm 8:3-4 ³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

1. Isaiah 40:12 tells us that God measured out the heavens with the Span of His hand.
 - a) Current estimates are that our universe is 93 billion light years in diameter.¹
 - i) This is the span of God’s hand.
 - b) Closer to home... You could line up 109 Earths across the face of the sun.²
 - i) We are smaller than a speck of microscopic matter in this universe.
(1) And yet God is [mindful](#) of us and has [visited](#) us.
2. Mindful – **Psalm 139:17-18** ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ *If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.*

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160610-it-took-centuries-but-we-now-know-the-size-of-the-universe>

² <https://www.space.com/17001-how-big-is-the-sun-size-of-the-sun.html>

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- a) The word **visit** – care for (alt trans),
3. While David considered himself, as we all should, in awe of God’s love shown toward us, we also know that in the scriptures, the phrase **son of man** is a reference to Jesus making this a messianic psalm, a prophesy of the coming Messiah. (Also see Ps 2 and 16.)
 - a) **1 Timothy 3:16** ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Psalm 8:5 ⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

1. Hebrews 2:6-9 quotes this Psalm in describing Jesus.
 - a) He was lower than the angels only in that He came to experience death.

Psalm 8:6 ⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

1. Paul quotes this verse in 1 Corinthians 15:27.
 - a) We are moving forward rapidly to the time when the Rapture will occur, followed by the Great Tribulation after which Jesus will return and rule over all the earth.
 - i) This is what Psalm 8:6 and 1 Corinthians 15 are describing.
 - ii) At Jesus’s second coming he will be **crowned... with glory and honor**, He will have **dominion over all the earth**, **all things** will be put **under his feet**.
 - b) When we partake of communion Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 11:26... till He comes.
 - i) This Psalm describes what it will be like when He does come!
 - ii) This is why Jesus is called our Blessed Hope...
 - (1) For it’s written in Titus 2:13 [that we are] ¹³ **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

Psalm 8:7-8 ⁷All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, ⁸The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

1. While this Psalm describes Jesus’s kingdom, it also describes what God has in store for the followers of Christ as well.

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- a) We too will be crowned with glory and honor when we receive our glorified bodies in the resurrection.
 - b) We have been given dominion now and will have dominion over Christ's kingdom when He returns as well.
2. Dr. Faulkner from the [Answers in Genesis](#)³ ministry states, Driven by his awe of the night sky, David was inspired to write Psalm 8, where, in considering the heavens that God has made, David asked, what is man's significance? The answer is firmly based in creation, in that God made man just a little lower than the heavenly beings, yet he has made man the crown of creation, with glory and honor. This is because man is uniquely made, as Genesis describes, in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). Furthermore, Psalm 8:6–8 reasserts man's dominion over creation, again echoing Genesis 1:26.
- a) Read **Genesis 1:26-28**.
3. Stewardship – Management
- a) Stewardship Oxford Definition: the job of supervising or taking care of something.
 - b) **1 Corinthians 4:2** ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.
 - c) God has given us this amazing creation to take care of.
 - i) We do so by exercising dominion over creation, that is ruling over it.
 - ii) Jesus describes how a ruler should act... **Matthew 20:25–26** ²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.
 - iii) We take care of those things that we have been given dominion over... management – stewardship.

Psalm 8:9

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

1. The thought of all these things prompts David to break out in worshipful song again!

Conclusion: What's the big take away from this passage?

1. God's name is Majestic – higher than all other names and things here on earth or in our universe.
2. We can be encouraged that God is Mindful of us. Microscopic matter that is the object of God's love and affection.
3. The Messiah will be coming again... He is our Blessed Hope!

³ <https://answersingenesis.org/creationism/old-earth/examination-hugh-ross-creation-passages-psalms/>

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4. And Management, we are to be good stewards and exercise careful dominion over all God has entrusted to us.

Invitation: Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

ⁱ All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.