

Psalm 8

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Preacher: Ray Sims

[0:00] But Psalm 8, let me read and then I'll hand over to Ray and pray for us. Psalm 8, for the director of music, according to Gittith, a Psalm of David.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants, you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I considered your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them? Human beings that you care for them. You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands. You put everything under their feet, all flocks and herds and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Ray, over to you. Amen. Father, we thank you for your word. Thank you for the opportunity to look at it together tonight.

[1:35] We are very conscious that we need you to speak to us and I do pray that you will do that. You would show us some of your glory, show us some of your wonder and give us hearts that respond, we pray.

Amen. In Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. Okay, we just read Psalm 8, so I won't read it again, but we will read bits as we go through.

um this psalm answers the two biggest questions that we can ask tonight that is who is god and what is man and we'll use these questions to explore what god says to us through david in this psalm but in in this psalm david is bowled over if you may have picked that up from from the reading there he's amazed at the glory and the graciousness of god his glory is seen in the heavens he has made and his grace in giving mankind such a place of honor in his creation david opens and closes you might notice there in verse one and the last verse there a kind of summary of who this glorious god is and the verses in between pack that out and give us more information and detail about how he sees his glory so first of all who is god this psalm opens by saying that god is an excellent sovereign it says lord our lord how majestic is your name in all the earth lord our lord in the hebrew is yahweh our adonai in other words he's saying lord our sovereign our ruler so lord is the title the sovereign is who he is how majestic or how excellent is your name in all the earth here he's declaring boldly god is the worthy king and ruler of all people all people everywhere on earth so why is his name excellent when we read that phrase in god's word your name talking about god you may know that he's talking about his character who he is so his name is more than yahweh it's actually his very being and that's what he's saying your very being is altogether excellent and it's seen in how you rule he is the excellent sovereign verses one to three also tell us about god who is god he's the powerful creator let me read to you and follow along please in your bibles you have set your glory up in the heavens through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger when i consider your heavens the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have set in place what is mankind that you are mindful of them human beings that you care for them so here we're told that god's glory is seen in what he's made i don't know whether you're familiar with psalm 19 but that is very similar it has a similar theme verse one of psalm 19 says the heavens declare the glory of god the skies proclaim the work of his hands so in psalm 19 we see the way that sun tracks across the sky and how it makes a circuit which is rather wonderful because people didn't realize that the earth was around in those days it makes it a circuit and david is wondering full of wonder in psalm 19 at the daytime sky but here in psalm 8 he looks at the moon and the stars the night sky and he's filled again with wonder and worship think of this he didn't have the benefit of modern astronomy i mean

this is thousands of years ago isn't

it the astronomy that's available to us today he could only see a snapshot of the sky uh that's the that which is visible to the naked eye and and as he looked up that's that's all he could see now you and i if we take the bother to investigate and i tried this but after a while it was just beyond me so i had to give up uh i tried to investigate it a bit um we understand to some extent the the universe is not made up of just that little snapshot we can see when we look up at the night sky but it's our galaxy is massive and that galaxy we see is just one of many all right so you can only see a tiny bit of the galaxy but that galaxy is a tiny bit of what is there the heavens that god has made just to help us to to investigate this a bit more um how massive and glorious our universe is let me give you some facts about the stars all right there are about 5 000 stars that are visible to the human eye okay 5 000 that's a lot all right but the number of the stars in the universe is estimated between 200 billion trillion and one septillion now we forget septillion let's take the base here let's let's take the lowest thing all right which is 200 which is 200 billion trillion the number of the minimum number of stars uh it's about it's described like this right it's 10 times the number of cups of water in all the oceans on earth so if you had to take a cup i can't tell you what size cup right but a cup and you take water out of that it's 10 times the number of cups of water in all the oceans isn't that amazing that's how many that's how many stars we have that's that's not just the planets and the other stuff but god has made all of that verse 3 tells us in psalm 8 that not only did god create the moon and all the stars but he set each one in place think about this just for a minute the planets and we're talking about our solar system now not everything else that is out there but just this tiny bit of our solar system the planets orbit the sun the moon orbits the earth and the billions and trillions of stars are all set in place and they don't collide and they don't spin off now gravity still works and it all behaves as it as it's about to be able to do because god has created a wonderful universe and that universe obey their creator so who is god he's the powerful creator here's another question for you why did god create the universe why did god create them why do we have creation stop to think about that any ideas to show his glory exactly okay we can see a glimpse of his glory this is the reason god created us to show his glory to show his glory to show how glorious he is

do you see it do you see the glory in what is made david looks up and says how glorious you are the next verse down okay i think it's first verse two tells us that god's creative power is excellent is so obvious that even small children can see it and we're told though the enemies of god refuse to acknowledge him little children can see it and when they see it they praise him him and listen to this by their praise god's enemies are silenced we've got an example of this haven't we in matthew's gospel where the religious leaders who should have known far better of course they refused to believe jesus but their little children cried out his praise if you want to turn to it's matthew 21 i'm going to read to you verses 14 to 17 matthew 21 the blind and the lame came to him at the temple and he healed them but when the chief priests and the leaders of the law 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 do you hear what these children are saying they asked him yes jesus replied have you never read from the lips of children and infants you lord have called forth your praise and he left them and went out of the city to bethany where he spent the night the chief priests and the scribes were silenced here by the praise of children to their savior so here in matthew 21 jesus is claiming psalm 8 for himself as god is glorified by the children's praise in psalm 8 so jesus is glorified by the children's praise in psalm 21 do you see what the children saw in that reading we we just read they saw that jesus was the messiah the son of david and their response was to shout hosanna which means save so the children teach us two things here let's learn from these children first of all they teach us that jesus is god uh we see this because jesus accepted their praise in the in the context of psalm 8 where it was said of god now it's said of jesus and the second thing is it teaches us what the correct response is to seeing god's glory because we all see god's glory it's it's it's it's all around us it's in what is made and it's particularly seen in our lord jesus christ so we all see god's glory the question for us is what is our response to that i'm challenged to think how much time i take to thank him to reflect on his glory and do i like um like the children call out in praise do i fall on my feet fall on my knees in worship it should have some his glory is so marvelous it should have some profound impact on us when david sees a glimpse of the vast heavens

[14 : 26] he then sees how small and seemingly insignificant in relation to the amazing creation he is and he asks in verse 4 our second major question what is man what is mankind that you are mindful of them human beings that you care for them and he sees the answer to his question in the order of creation he sees god's care in the risk position and responsibility that god gave human

beings back in genesis chapter 1 and chapter 2 which is reflected here in psalm 8 so what is man the first thing we learn about ourselves here is that we were created to rule man was created to be a ruler not in the sense that god is sovereign ruler obviously but man made in god's image was made to rule reflecting that image of god to take care and to rule over god's creation look down will you at verse 5 and follow through with me the next few verses you have made them a little lower than the angels you crowned them with glory and honor you made them rulers over the works of your hands you put everything under their feet all flocks and herds and the animals of the wild the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea all that swim in the paths of the seas the sea now here's an amazing fact you and i are created a little lower than the angels would you believe it isn't that amazing we are we were created a little lower than the angels so not insignificant as we may count ourselves but loved by god and given glory and honor as it says here in verse 5 in god's care for us we're given responsibility to care for his creation to reflect the creator but we know don't we that our next thing for what is man we have to say that man has fallen from that glorious state how miserably we failed the position the honor the glory given in genesis chapter 1 and 2 was spoiled tainted marred by the rebellion to god in genesis chapter 3 so here's a more amazing fact than the first amazing fact god again showed his care for us by sending jesus made a little lower than the angels that he might suffer and restore us to god turn with me if you can to hebrews chapter 2 verses 6 to 8 pick up this uh these words of psalm 8 again and what david was saying so halfway through verse 6 what is mankind's that you are mindful of them a son of man that you care for him you made them a little lower than the angels you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet in putting everything under them god left nothing that is not subject to them yet at present we do not see everything subject to them but we do see jesus who was made lower than the angels for a little while now clapped crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death so that

by the grace of god he might taste death for everyone i do like the um esv version of this if you have an esv you will see that it actually uses the word man rather than mankind and the reason i like that is because you can see how wonderful jesus just is just slipped into this picture that god not only created man uh he gave jesus this the second adam um to die for our sins so it struck me how amazing it is that christ should be made a little lower than the angels the one who created the angels the one who created all that we see and all that we don't see amazing so man is uh was created to be ruler man is fallen but man is restored jesus the creator god the son made lower than his creation why would he do this that he might suffer death and restore us and win us back his rebellious creatures but we in creation how we are today you and i standing or sitting here tonight we're not yet back in genesis chapter 2 there is still that fallenness in our world we still we still sin we still die and there still continues to be brokenness and we don't as many of the climate change advocates will tell you we don't care for creation and they're dead right we are not back to genesis 1 and 2 but this is only because god's wonderful plan of redemption is not finished yet now hear me carefully in this i'm not saying that christ's work on the cross wasn't finished of course it was finished but his restoring us is not finished yet one day we will be restored to rule again with christ in heaven so our rule will be in some measure given back to us we will be with christ in heaven no more sin no more death no more brokenness 2 timothy chapter 2 verse 12 i'll read it to you it's just two verses here is a trustworthy saying if we died with him we will also live with him if we endure we will reign with him reigning with christ for the rest of eternity now two things here we haven't got time but also i i wasn't able to prepare this properly i couldn't get my head around it properly but i just wanted to mention christ's reign here christ's reign in 2 timothy chapter 2 that we just read is future but what does christ's reign look like now today this evening you can look up 1 corinthians 15 and ephesians chapter 1 and they both when you get home if you want to they both reflect psalm 8 and hebrews 2 in recalling this fact he has put everything under his feet ephesians 1 tells us that christ was raised from the dead seated in power in heaven given the highest place all things put under his feet he was pointed head of his church the highest place he was raised from the dead seated in power in the dead seated in power in the dead and 1 corinthians 15 tells us that he is still putting things under his feet one last thing to put under his feet is death so christ is still doing his marvelous work for us in heaven so let's conclude now david concludes this psalm as he started it verse 9 lord our lord how majestic is your name in all the earth yahweh our sovereign ruler how excellent is your name in all the earth so as we go into this week um i and you need to take time to wonder and worship at god's amazing creation you're in london so there's not

much not much hope of seeing many stars as you look up but you can see god's creation in other ways so take time to worship god for his creation and his beautiful but costly plan in saving us thank you shall i just pray father i do thank you for psalm 8 i do thank you for the truth of it and lord um our failing is that we sometimes can't see it we certainly can't see it as to all of your glory help us to do so this week we pray in jesus name amen