

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 8: Man—God’s Representative

Psalm 8:1-9 (NASB)

¹“O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!
²From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established
strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the
revengeful cease.
³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon
and the stars, which You have ordained;
⁴What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that
You care for him?
⁵Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him
with glory and majesty!
⁶You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put
all things under his feet,
⁷All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,
⁸The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes
through the paths of the seas.
⁹O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

This **eighth psalm** describes the impression on the heart of David as he looked up into the heavens at night. As he studied the splendor of the clear eastern atmosphere in Palestine, he broke forth in admiration acknowledging the God of Israel who set His glory in the heavens to be seen by all. [Verses 1–3](#) describe who God is: Excellent Creator.

Psalm 8:1-3 (NASB)

¹“O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!
²From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established
strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the
revengeful cease.
³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon
and the stars, which You have ordained.”

Even the children praise Him. Children do not use logic to come to a belief in God. They simply believe that God is. Jesus told His followers in [Matthew 18:3](#) to “*become as little children.*”

Matthew 18:3 (NASB)

³“And said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and **become like children**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Hebrews 11:6 completes this thought—

Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

6 “And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

As David enjoyed God’s beauty of the heavens, there came a sense of his own insignificance. Considering the vastness of God’s greatness and creative power, how insignificant is man! “*What is man that You take thought of him?*” Verses 4–8 describe what man is.

Psalm 8:4-8 (NASB)

4 “What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,

8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.”

Man is in God’s mind and visited by God (verse 4).

Psalm 8:4 (NASB)

4 “What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?”

God is mindful of man every moment of his existence. He has provided all things needful for a happy and useful life. God was mindful of man when, in the fullness of time, He sent His Son and through His death on the cross, made provision for our salvation.

In verses 5 and 6 David said that God had crowned man with glory and honor and given him a place of responsibility.

Psalm 8:5-6 (NASB)

5 “Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

Man is made in God’s image, an earthling in the pattern of the divine. God crowned man above all other earth creatures. God declares mankind highly valuable. There can be no place for self-doubt with the truth of God’s Word declaring one’s worth. God gave man authority over creation, but with that authority came responsibility. God delegated His authority to mankind. Man is responsible as God’s agent for the regulation of creation. Man is not to exploit creation but to regulate it just as heavenly bodies regulate the seasons in predictable cycles.

There is a hint of prophecy in [verses 5–6](#), as the author looks ahead to Christ.

Psalm 8:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

⁶ You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

The writer of Hebrews quotes this psalm in [Hebrews 2:7–9](#).

Hebrews 2:5-9 (NASB)

⁵“For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

⁶ But one has testified somewhere, saying, “WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?”

⁷“YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

⁸ YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

⁹ But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Jesus fully participates in humanity by living on earth, obeying the Father, and receiving a crown of glory that is untarnished by sin unlike all other mankind on earth. Jesus' first coming defeated death as He rose from the grave. This prophecy will ultimately be fulfilled when Christ returns to earth in his second coming as described in [1 Corinthians 15:21–28](#) when death will be destroyed ([Revelation 20:14](#)), and Christ will reign supreme.

1 Corinthians 15:21-28 (NASB)

²¹“For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

²⁴ then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.”

Revelation 20:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.”

The psalm ends with another affirmation of who God is: Excellent Creator of all the earth ([verse 9](#)).

Psalm 8:9 (NASB)

⁹ “O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

Man is not the measure of all things, as the Greeks said. Praise goes to God, the Author of Life, Creator of Earth. [Psalm 8](#) is a psalm of worship to the One who alone is worthy of worship.