

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(33)

## Psalm 8

### *Honor God the Creator and Acknowledge His Exaltation of Man, 8:1-9*

**The LORD'S Glory and Man's Dignity**

**For the Choir Director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of David**

**Psalm 8:1-9 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup>“O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!**

**<sup>2</sup>From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.**

**<sup>3</sup>When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;**

**<sup>4</sup>What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?**

**<sup>5</sup>Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!**

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

**<sup>7</sup>All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,**

**<sup>8</sup>The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.**

**<sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”**

**(Psalm 8:1-9) Introduction:** Do you remember lying on your back in the grass and gazing up at the infinite wonders of the night sky? Sadly, this childhood practice is abandoned by most adults. It is natural to imagine that this was David's posture as the Holy Spirit formed [Psalm 8](#) in his heart and mind.

His mention of *the moon and the stars* ([v. 3](#)) indicates that he was contemplating the wonders of the night: the vast, borderless skyscape that appears only after the setting of the sun.

**Psalm 8:3 (NASB)**

**<sup>3</sup>“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained.”**

This is the first *nature psalm*. God has revealed himself to us through His creation ([Romans 1:20](#)).

**Romans 1:20 (NASB)**

**<sup>20</sup>“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power**

and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

His marvelous works stir our spirits to seek Him and to exalt His marvelous wisdom and power. David instructed the director of music in the congregation to accompany this praise hymn with the *gitteth*, a harp-like stringed instrument from the region of Gath.

As David sang the praises of the Maker of the heavens, “he was being led to express certain higher elements of truth, of which he himself was not at the time aware.”

The New Testament later revealed that this is a *Messianic psalm* (see Introduction to *Psalms*). Its embedded, extended truths are expounded in [Matthew 21:15-16](#), [1 Corinthians 15:27-28](#), [Ephesians 1:22](#), and [Hebrews 2:5-9](#).

**Matthew 21:15-16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> “But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became indignant

<sup>16</sup> and said to Him, “Do You hear what these *children* are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF’?”

**1 Corinthians 15:27-28 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> “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.

<sup>28</sup> 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.”

**Ephesians 1:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup> “And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church.”

**Hebrews 2:5-9 (NASB)**

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

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

<sup>7</sup> “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;

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.”

Esteemed commentator **H.C. Leupold** offers an outstanding explanation:

*“The clear indication of the New Testament writers...allows for the following fact, that the ‘first Adam’ ([1 Cor. 15:45](#)) prefigures much of that which becomes vital in the life of the ‘last Adam.’ The true character and essence of the original Adam are manifested most effectively in the life of Jesus Christ. Therefore, if the true dignity of the first Adam is strongly set forth, the whole description obviously finds its fullest realization in Jesus Christ.*

*...Adam prefigures what Christ is...The God of history so shaped the details of history that the man originally created is a clear foreshadowing of all the excellencies and marvels of the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*...the Son of man, in whom the original pattern is more fully realized, reflects this same glory far more perfectly. The New Testament use of these words is...a disclosure of an appropriate meaning [regarding Christ], which was intended at the time of the original writing. The typical nature of the words employed was a result of the clear design of the Spirit of inspiration.”*

When we stare into the stars today, we observe God’s handiwork with far more information than David possessed.

We are blessed to live in the time that Daniel prophesied, when human knowledge of the mysteries of God’s creation would be increased ([Daniel 12:4](#)).

**Daniel 12:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

But the discoveries of modern science are not necessary to realize the two great truths that boggled David’s mind: the majestic glory of the God who sculpted the skies, and the unfathomable fact that He would care so much for us.

This is, *Honor God the Creator and Acknowledge His Exaltation of Man*, [Psalm 8:1-9](#).

1. Consider God’s majestic name (vv. 1-2).
2. Consider God’s care for us (the human race) (vv. 3-4).
3. Consider our exalted position over creation (vv. 5-8).
4. Consider God’s purpose: That we acknowledge Him as Lord (our Lord) and praise His name (v. 9).