

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(34)

## 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!”**

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).

#### 1. (Psalm 8:1-2) Consider God's majestic name.

**Psalm 8:1-2 (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.”**

David began this psalm by magnifying the exalted name of the Lord.

In Old Testament times, names represented character. Names were carefully selected, and they were often changed—even in adulthood—when people’s lives were not accurately reflected in their given names. One of the ways God has revealed Himself is through His names. David exclaimed that the name of the Lord was **excellent** or **majestic** (addir). This word means wide, large, or broad. Note how it is translated throughout the Old Testament, as...

- famous                      principal
- gallant                      worthy
- glorious
- goodly
- lordly
- mighty
- noble

**Note this curious and significant fact:** God’s name in creation is **Elohim**, the strong, powerful one ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](#)).

It is logical that David would refer to God by this name in a psalm that exalts Him as Creator. But this is not the name David used to address God: the first **Lord** is **Yahweh** (**Jehovah, Greek**), God’s personal name. **Why is this significant? Practically speaking, what does it mean to us?**

**First**, we know the Creator of the universe personally: He has told us His name ([Exodus 3:13-16](#)).

**Exodus 3:13-16 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?””

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup> God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

<sup>16</sup> “Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, ‘I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt.’”

He is not a distant God far off in outer space somewhere, a God who is unknown and aloof to humans. He has introduced Himself to us and desires a relationship with us.

**Second**, the mighty Creator of the universe offers a covenant with us. He longs to be our Redeemer. **Yahweh** (**Jehovah**) is God’s covenant name: **Yahweh** is the God who makes and keeps His covenant with His people. We have a relationship with Him through His covenant.

**Third**, we can get His attention. David began this psalm by simply uttering, “*O Lord*.” Jesus made our approach to God even more personal. He taught us to address God as, “**Our Father**” ([Matthew 6:9](#)).

[Matthew 6:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> “Pray, then, in this way: ‘**Our Father** who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.’”

Through the pen of Paul, the Holy Spirit instructs us to cry out to God with the term “**Abba, Father**” ([Romans 8:15](#); [Galatians 4:6](#)).

[Romans 8:15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “**Abba! Father!**”

[Galatians 4:6 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “**Abba! Father!**”

How blessed we are to live on this side of Calvary and to possess God’s completed revelation to humanity! The Jews under the Old Covenant knew God as *Yahweh* (*Jehovah*), but we under the New Covenant know Him more intimately. We can call Him *Father*.

The *LORD* (*Jehovah*) is *our LORD* (*Adon*, also *Adonai*). This name means master or ruler. It emphasizes God’s ownership of us and His sovereign authority over us. All who truly acknowledge God as *Adonai* serve Him and obey Him. We live under His ownership and authority. In return, He protects and provides for us.

**a. His name—power and glory—is revealed in all the earth (v. 1).**

[Psalm 8:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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

As the master of His creation, the name of the Lord is *excellent* and *majestic* in every corner of the earth. Although the heathen nations of the world did not and still may not know the name *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*, creation’s order and beauty reveal Him. Natural or general revelation—the revelation of God through His creation—extends to every individual. Every person senses’ in his or her heart that there is a God who created the universe and is the master of it. Multitudes ignore or deny that voice, but it does not change the fact that every individual senses it ([Romans 1:19-25](#)).

[Romans 1:19-25 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> “Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

<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.

<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give

thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

<sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

God longs for all people to know that He—*Yahweh*—is the only true and living God who is most high above all ([Psalm 83:18](#)).

[Psalm 83:18 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> “That they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.”

**b. His glory is above the heavens ([v. 1](#)).**

[Psalm 8:1 \(NASB\)](#)

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

[Psalm 8:1 \(KJV\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> “O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.”

The wording of this phrase is very significant. What does it mean? “**God’s glory, the shining greatness of his character, cannot be contained by creation. His glory exceeds the heights of creation. The heavens and earth can only partially express his excellence because the Creator remains far greater than what he creates.**”

This phrase also teaches another fact: above everything that we can see—above the created heavens and earth—is the glorious throne of God. God’s glory is seen in the creation, but it flows from His throne which sits *above the heavens*. It is there at the throne of God where His glory and holiness are unceasingly praised by angels ([Psalm 103:19](#); [Isaiah 6:1-3](#)).

[Psalm 103:19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”

[Isaiah 6:1-3 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> “In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

<sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

**c. His strength is seen in His choice of the weak (children) to serve Him (v. 2).**

**Psalm 8:2 (NASB)**

**<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.”**

A fascinating truth is revealed about the glorious God of creation: He has chosen to respond to His enemies through the praise of children. What a wonderful truth: when God seeks to silence His foes, He does not always turn to the educated, deep-thinking theologians to explain all the deep truths of Scripture! It is not necessary for God to turn to the trained, Bible-believing scientists to skillfully refute the false claims of this unbelieving world. God sometimes defeats His critics with the simple praise of children who are not yet old enough to reject the revelation that God has placed in their young hearts. Jesus cited this verse when the Pharisees protested the praise of children in the temple:

**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’?”**

Consider another application of this verse: the fact that these children are specified as *babes* or infants and *sucklings*—little ones who are still nursing—points to the amazing process of childbirth.

We live in a time when the origin of the universe and life by divine creation is rejected more than at any other time in human history. The ludicrous theories of this world are embraced as intelligent and factual while the logical position of biblical creation is ridiculed.

One of the most effective arguments for a supremely intelligent and orderly Creator is the birth of a child. The miraculous process of conception, development, and delivery screams in support of a Creator. Modern technology enables us to see the growth and development of a baby inside the mother’s womb. How can any thinking person witness the miracle of reproduction and deny the mighty and glorious hand of God?

**Thought 1.** We must become like children before we can enter the kingdom of heaven—humble and ever ready to learn from the world round about us (**Matthew 18:2-3**). When we look at creation and receive the light God gives through His creation, God will give us more light. Somehow and someday, He will send the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to us so that we might believe in

Him. And when we humble ourselves in childlike faith and believe the gospel, we will live eternally in the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 18:2-3 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> “And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

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

**Romans 1:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

**Romans 1:18-20 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

<sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

<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.”

**1 Corinthians 1:21-27 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

<sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

<sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.”

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

<sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

<sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”