

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(35)

## 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).
2. (Psalm 8:3-4) Consider God's care for us (the human race).

**Psalm 8:3-4 (NASB)**

<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?”

*God loves people.* This glorious truth prompted David to exalt the majestic name of the Lord. He was amazed as he pondered God's passion for humans and the grace He has extended to us.

**a. Consider the majestic heavens above (v. 3).**

**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.”**

As David gazed into the night sky, he became lost in the majestic beauty and glory of the heavens—revealing just how great God is.

David did not know all that we today know about what is out there, but as he contemplated the heavenly bodies that light the night, he was amazed that it is all the work of God's *fingers*. Meditating on this verse yields three fascinating thoughts:

**First**, the *setting of the stars in place by God's fingers*. This is what gripped the heart of David. His words paint a vivid image: each of the heavenly bodies is grasped like a ball in the clutch of God's hand and purposely placed in the precise spot of His choosing. *Ordained (kûn)* is translated as *set in place*. Today, we know that God has created all matter and energy and the laws that cause both to interact and bring the stars and planets into being.

In His infinite knowledge and wisdom, He has ordained—set in place—the *trillions* of stars and planets scattered throughout the universe.

People often speak of God flinging the stars into space. But that is not the way it happened. The Lord decorated the sky like a woman carefully decorating her home. Each piece is orderly and purposely placed according to His good pleasure. Like an engineer carefully fitting together the pieces of a complicated machine, the Creator meticulously created the laws that position each star in space and that contribute to the operation of the universe.

**Second**, the *sculpting of the stars by God's fingers*. Like a potter forming his clay, the Lord shaped and molded the planets, stars, and meteors. Imagine every crater and canyon as the impression of God's fingers. *Ordained* also means to form or fashion. It is used of framing words with the mouth to pronounce them (**Judges 12:6**) and of the Lord's fashioning of a baby within the womb (**Job 31:15; Psalm 119:73**).

**Judges 12:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> **“Then they would say to him, ‘Say now, ‘Shibboleth.’” But he said, ‘Sibboleth,’ for he could not pronounce it correctly. Then they seized him and slew him at the fords of the Jordan. Thus, there fell at that time 42,000 of Ephraim.**

**Job 31:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> “Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?”

**Psalm 119:73 (NASB)**

<sup>73</sup> “Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.”

**Third**, the *simplicity* of the task. Bible teacher **J. Vernon McGee** wrote, ‘It is interesting that when the Word speaks of salvation, it refers to the bared arm of the Lord:

**Isaiah 53:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

But when it speaks of the creation of the heavens and the earth, it calls it His finger-work. As **John Wesley** put it, “‘God created the heavens and the earth and didn't half try.’ Creation was His finger-work, like the crocheting of a woman.”

**b. Consider how small and frail we are—compared to the vastness of space—yet God cares for us (v. 4).**

**Psalm 8:4 (NASB)**

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

**Psalm 8:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou **visitest** him?”

David asked this question of the Lord: “What is man that You would even give him a thought, much less care enough about him to come to him and help him?” Note the word *visit* (**paqad**).

The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* explains, “The basic meaning is to exercise oversight over a subordinate, either in the form of inspecting or of taking action to cause a considerable change in the circumstances of the subordinate...”

What David could see with his naked eye was enough to stir him to rejoice over God's care for people. Today, when we know so much more about the universe, how much more overwhelmed we should be that the one who is above the heavens should give us a thought, much less give His Son for us.

We know that in one second a beam of light travels 186,000 miles, which is about seven times around the earth. It takes eight minutes for that beam to go from the sun to the earth. In a year the same beam travels almost six trillion miles. Scientists call this a ‘**light-year.**’ Eight billion light-years from earth is halfway to the edge of the known universe. Within the universe there are a hundred billion galaxies, each with a

hundred billion stars, on the average. In all the galaxies, there are perhaps as many planets as stars, ten billion trillion. These statistics take us beyond human comprehension.”

**Thought 1.** Think of it: we are less than tiny dots on the face of the universe. In proportion to God’s vast creation, every one of us is smaller than a single grain of sand on the shore. But God loves us!

Of all His creation—what we can see and the myriads of galaxies that are beyond even our most advanced instruments—we have been specially selected to be the recipients of God’s favor and care. Of the trillions and trillions of stars in the heavens, we are merely specks on one star, yet we have been singled out to know God and to be the objects of His great, immeasurable love ([Ephesians 3:18-19](#)).

**Ephesians 3:18-19 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “May be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,  
<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

David’s questions “are poetic devices to evoke a sense of awe and place a proper perspective on one’s self-worth.” He questions God for our benefit. Many people struggle with a poor self-image. The purpose of this psalm is to teach just how important we are to God; how valuable we are to Him. He planned a wonderful life for you ([Jeremiah 1:5](#)).

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

He carefully formed you according to His specifications. Those physical attributes you so despise and would change if you could have been carefully programmed into your DNA by a loving Creator who delights in your uniqueness ([Psalm 139:13-16](#)).

**Psalm 139:13-16 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.  
<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;  
<sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.”

As you developed and grew before birth, those characteristics were sculpted by the finger of God! You are not just another copy that has been stamped by a common mold. You are an individual masterpiece, adored and treasured by the one who so lovingly crafted you.

Not only that, but He continues to keep a careful watch over you. The verbs in [verse 4](#) are in the imperfect tense, which denotes continuous action.

[Psalm 8:4 \(NASB\)](#)

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

God knows every detail about your life. He even keeps count of your hairs, a constantly changing number ([Matthew 10:30](#)).

[Matthew 10:30 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>30</sup>“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

He is aware of everything that happens in your life. He knows every burden, problem, and heartache you face. He weeps when you weep; He rejoices when you rejoice. He is constantly working everything in your life for your good ([Romans 8:28](#)). Behind the scenes, your loving Heavenly Father is there.

[Romans 8:28 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>28</sup>“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

But most of all, He visited us personally. He gave us His Son, who came to earth in order that He could “**cause a considerable change in [our] circumstances.**” He became one of us in order to take our place on Calvary’s cross, to receive upon Himself the punishment for sin. Because of that, we can have abundant life and a glorious, eternal future. Oh, how the great God and Creator loves us!

[Matthew 10:30 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>30</sup>“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

[Ephesians 3:17-19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>17</sup>“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

<sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

[Job 7:17 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>17</sup>“What is man that You magnify him, And that You are concerned about him.”

[Psalm 139:13-16 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>13</sup>“For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

**Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.**

**<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;**

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**Jeremiah 1:5 (NASB)**

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