

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(37)

## 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).**

**4. (Psalm 8:9) Consider God's purpose: That we acknowledge Him as Lord (our Lord) and praise His name.**

**Psalm 8:9 (NASB)**

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

David concluded this psalm exactly as he began it (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!”**

He sings out the praises of the Lord's majestic name, sings louder and in a higher key than before. When we consider God's great love for us and how great He is, we join the chorus in exalting His great and glorious name.

**Thought 1.** God's great purpose for creation and man's position in creation is clearly seen in this passage: man's former perfection, glory, and authority will be restored by Christ. The New Testament completes the picture. God created man and gave him dominion over the earth. Man fell and lost his glory. Jesus came and redeemed both fallen humanity and the creation. And, someday in the future, He will restore man to his former glory, and He will reign for eternity as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Ephesians 1:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> "To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory."

## The Divine Perspective

**Ephesians 1:9-14 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> "He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

<sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

<sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

<sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory."

Our discussion here will follow the order of the Greek text of [verse 12](#), in which (as reflected in the King James Version) **should be to the praise of His glory** precedes "**who were the first to hope in Christ**" (which phrase will be discussed below in relation to the human perspective).

**Ephesians 1:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> "To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ **would be to the praise of His glory.**"

**Ephesians 1:12 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."

**ΠΡΟΣ ΕΦΕΣΙΟΥΣ 1**

"**eis to einai ēmas eis epainon doxēs** autou tous proēpikotas en tō christō."

**Ephesians 1:12 (NASB-reversed)**

<sup>12</sup> “**Would be to the praise of His glory**, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ.”

God’s perspective on our inheritance in Christ is here shown in His predestination, His power, and His preeminence.

**God’s predestination.**

**Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> “Also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”

William Hendriksen’s comment on this passage is helpful and concise:

Neither fate nor human merit determines our destiny. The benevolent purpose—that we should be holy and faultless (**verse 4**), sons of God (**verse 5**), destined to glorify him forever (**verse 6**, cf. **verses 12** and **14**)—is fixed, being part of a larger, universe—embracing plan.

**Ephesians 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we would be holy and blameless before Him**. In love”

**Ephesians 1:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “He predestined us **to adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”

**Ephesians 1:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “**To the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”

**Ephesians 1:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> “To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be **to the praise of His glory**.”

**Ephesians 1:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> “Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, **to the praise of His glory**.”

Not only did God *make* this plan that includes absolutely all things that ever take place in heaven, on earth, and in hell; past, present, *and even the future*, pertaining to both believers and unbelievers, to angels and devils, to physical as well as spiritual energies and units of existence both large and small; he also *wholly carries it out*. His providence in time is as comprehensive as is his decree from eternity. (*New Testament Commentary: Exposition of Ephesians* [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967], p.88)

**God’s power.**

**Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> “Also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to His purpose **who works all things after the counsel of His will**.”

*God's power.* **who works all things after the counsel of His will.** Works is from *energeó*, from which we get such English words as *energy*, *energetic*, and *energize*. God's creating, and energizing are one in His divine mind. When He spoke each part of the world into existence it began immediately to operate precisely as He had planned it to do. Unlike the things we make, God's creations do not have to be redesigned, prototyped, tested, fueled, charged, and the like. They are not only created ready to function, they are created functioning.

Energizing is an indispensable part of His creative plan and work. Because in His wondrous grace God chose us to be His children, citizens of His kingdom, and joint heirs with His Son, He will bring all of that to pass. **"For I am confident of this very thing,"** Paul declared, **"that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus"** (**Philippians 1:6 NASB**). God works out what He plans. He energizes every believer with all the power necessary for his spiritual completion. It is not sufficient to think that God only makes the plan. He also makes it work out.

### *God's preeminence.*

**Ephesians 1:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> **"That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory."**

*God's preeminence.* **should be to the praise of His glory.** As mentioned above, this phrase begins verse twelve in the Greek text, and that order fits logically with what Paul has been saying about God's perspective on our inheritance. The Lord's perspective and working are seen in His predestination, in His power, and, as we see here, in His preeminence. Man is redeemed for the purpose of restoring the divine image marred by sin. Because God's intention in creating men was that they should bear the divine image, salvation's goal is creation's goal. God desires creatures that will give Him glory by both proclaiming and displaying His glory. For that reason, He redeems men.

Scripture always presents salvation from God's side, in order that He should have full credit. In our humanly-oriented society, God's wanting exclusive credit seems inappropriate—but only because men have no concept of His greatness, holiness, and glory. What views they may have of Him are simply projections of themselves. The praise and glory that men so much desire are totally undeserved, and their motives for wanting them are purely sinful. But God seeks glory for the right reasons and because He alone is deserving of it. His seeking glory is a holy desire of which He is supremely and singly worthy.

Our predestined salvation, including our attendant eternal and boundless blessings, are therefore designed that they **should be to the praise of His glory.**

**Ephesians 2:4-7 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> **"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

<sup>5</sup> **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

### Salvation Is with a Purpose

**Ephesians 2:6-7 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “And raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Salvation has a purpose, in regard to us and in regard to God. The most immediate and direct result of salvation is to be **raised us up with Him**, and [to be] **seated with Him in the heavenly places**. Not only are we dead to sin and alive to righteousness through His resurrection in which we are raised, but we also enjoy His exaltation and share in His preeminent glory.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead His first instruction was, “**Unbind him, and let him go**” (**John 11:44**).

**John 11:44 (NASB)**

<sup>44</sup> “The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

A living person cannot function while wrapped in the trappings of death. Because our new citizenship through Christ is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**), God seats us **with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus**.

**Philippians 3:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We are no longer of this present world or in its sphere of sinfulness and rebellion. We have been rescued from spiritual death and given spiritual life in order to be **in Christ Jesus** and to be **with Him in the heavenly places**. Here, as in **Ephesians 1:3**, **heavenly places** refers to the supernatural sphere where God rules, though in **Ephesians 6:12** it refers to the supernatural sphere where Satan rules.

**Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing **in the heavenly places in Christ**.”

**Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness **in the heavenly places**.”

**Ephesians 2:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “And raised us up with Him and **seated** us with Him **in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus.”

The Greek verb behind **seated** is in the aorist tense and emphasizes the absoluteness of this promise by speaking of it as if it had already fully taken place. Even though we are not yet inheritors of all that God has for us in Christ, to be **in the heavenly places** is to be in God’s domain instead of Satan’s, to be in the sphere of spiritual life instead of the sphere of spiritual death. That is where our blessings are and where we have fellowship with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and with all the saints who have gone before us and will go after us. That is where all our commands come from and where all our praise and petitions go. And some day we will receive the “**to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you [us]**” (**1 Peter 1:4 NASB**).

**Ephesians 2:7 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> “**In order that** in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

**Ephesians 2:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> “**So that in the** ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The phrase **in order that** indicates that the purpose of our being exalted to the supernatural sphere of God’s preserve and power is that we may forever be blessed. But it is not only for our benefit and glory. God’s greater purpose in salvation is for His own sake, **in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**.

That, too, is obviously for our benefit, but it is first of all for God’s, because it displays for all eternity the **surpassing riches of His grace** (cf. **Ephesians 3:10**).

**Ephesians 3:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> “**So that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.**”

Through His endless **kindness toward us in Christ Jesus** (**Ephesians 2:7**), the Father glorifies Himself even as He blesses us. From the moment of salvation throughout **the ages to come** we never stop receiving the **grace** and **kindness** of God.

**The ages to come** is different from **the age to come** in **Ephesians 1:21** and refers to eternity.

**Ephesians 1:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> “**Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.**”

He glorifies Himself by eternally blessing us with “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” ([Ephesians 1:3](#)) and by bestowing on us His endless and limitless grace and kindness.

[Ephesians 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing **in the heavenly places in Christ.**”

The whole of heaven will glorify Him because of what He has done for us ([Revelation 7:10-12](#)).

[Revelation 7:10-12 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> “And they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

<sup>12</sup> saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

[Psalm 86:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> “All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.”

[Isaiah 43:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> “Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

[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!”