

**Rhema Christian Center
Tuesday Virtual Bible Study
Instructor: Sarah TWITTY - July 6, 2021**

PSALM 8 NOTES

Introduction

Psalm 8 was written by the David, a shepherd boy, a King of Israel, a man after God's own heart and the sweet Psalmist of Israel. It is a Psalm of:

**PRAISE
NATURE/CREATION
MESSIANIC PROPHECY**

God Name Is Exalted

Psalm 8 begins and ends with an exaltation and the praise to God, "***O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth.***" In David's proclamation of ***O LORD, our Lord***, he is recognizing both the covenant name of God (Yahweh) and His position to His people. He is saying that OUR LORD is the master of the universe and holds all power in his hands

How excellent (magnificent, glorious) ***is Your name in all the earth.*** David knew that even ***though*** the LORD was Israel's covenant God, ***HE WAS MORE THAN JUST GOD TO ISRAEL—HE WAS GOD OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.***

God's covenant people were part of God's plan to show his power in the earth and to serve as the vehicle to bring salvation into the world. In the O.T., God had many names. These names helped the people understand His covenant, His character, and His ways.

The names of God were listed in the powerpoint slide presentation.

In a dispute with the Jews about His identity, Jesus let them know that "before Father Abraham was born, **I AM.**" (*The same I AM that spoke to Moses*). John 8:58. ***When Jesus said this, they went little crazy. WHAT! This man is not even 50 years old. . .***

Our God has set His glory above the heavens? Glory above the heavens means that His glory far exceeds the heavens and all that He had created.

God Defeats Our Enemies

² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger,

Satan is our chief enemy. He tries to steal God's glory by any means necessary. He tried to steal it in heaven and he got the boot. And he is still trying it today through US, but it is not going to work.

God is so strong and powerful that He can derive praise even from infants and children.

Jesus referred to this verse after He cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:16). When the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things Jesus did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," **THEY WERE INDIGNANT. The priests asked** "Do you hear what these children are saying?" Jesus replied YES, ". . . have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and suckling I have perfected praise?"

WHEN WE LOOK BACK AT THE STORY OF DAVID AND GOLIATH, WE SEE HOW GOD USED the weak to defeat the mighty. THE ISRAELI ARMY WAS TERRIFIED OF GOLIATH because he was a seasoned warrior and probably bigger than Shaquille O'Neal. DAVID ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE TO FIGHT on behalf of Israel.

When David approaches Goliath, Goliath says: (I Sam. 17:) ⁴³. . . ***"Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?"*** And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ ***"Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"***

⁴⁵ ***David said to the Philistine, "YOU COME AGAINST ME WITH SWORD AND SPEAR AND JAVELIN, BUT I COME AGAINST YOU IN THE NAME OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY, THE GOD OF THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL, WHOM YOU HAVE DEFIED. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. . ."*** (I Samuel 17:43-46)

God often chooses "what is weak in the world to shame the strong" (***1 CORINTHIANS 1:27 BUT GOD CHOSE THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE WISE; GOD CHOSE THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE STRONG.***).

Paul says the same thing in 2 Cor. 4:7 where he explains how God places His powerful gospel in fragile, limited vessels, for His own glory (***2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.***).

Zech 4:6 says, It's "***... Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.***

Creation Details continue

³***When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon, and the stars, which You have ordained. . .***

Genesis 1 opens with God's work of creation. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (The theory of evolution and the Big Bang Theory are just that—theories that man has concocted).

I like what Gen. 2:4 says:

“This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,”

Verse 3 speaks about God’s fingers. We know that God is a spirit and has no physical parts. David uses the symbolism of fingers to show God’s miraculous power—something that only God could do.

Theologians use the word **ANTHROPOMORPHISM** to refer to God as having body parts (fingers, hands, feet, etc.) The fingers of God reveal His preeminence, His precepts, His punishment, and His Passion.

His PREEMINENCE (superiority)

Exodus 8:19 talks about the third of 10 plagues God poured out on Egypt because refused to let the His people go.

- The magicians were able to replicate the first two (blood, frogs) plagues but not the third plague, when God turned dust into lice, and the whole land was filled with lice which infected all humans and animals. Pharaoh’s magicians said, “this is the *finger of God*.”

His PRECEPTS (law)

Exodus 31:18 is where God gave Moses to ten commandments.

- The two tablets of stone were written with *the finger of God*”.

His PUNISHMENT

Daniel 5:1-30 demonstrates God’s wrath. Israel was in captivity in *Babylon*, and King Belshazzar held a party for his officials.

- All were drinking from the golden cups (***taken from the holy temple in Jerusalem.*** *In the same hour, the **fingers** of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote...*”

His PASSION- Mark 7:32-37

Mark 7:32-37 tells the story of a man who was deaf and mute.

- They brought him to Jesus who “put his **fingers** in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue, and said to him, “be opened.” The man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.

God’s Love for Man

⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You should visit him:

Man is here today and gone tomorrow. *David in Psalm 144:3-4 (niv) says: “LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow”*

Yet God cares for us and is mindful of us because we are his workmanship created in the image of God and His likeness for His glory and pleasure.

God not only cares about us, but He visited us. He left his home in glory and came to earth to save us from our sins and be our great high priest. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”*¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Now that he is our high priest, we can visit with our Father and He with us anytime and anywhere.

Man in Relation to Angels

⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. (This verse is twofold—it is speaking of man and the Messiah who was to come).

Man is lower than angels because he is housed in the flesh. We were formed from the *dust of the ground*. Everyone born into the world is a descendant of THE FIRST MAN ADAM -- made of one blood, all belonging to one human race—and born in sin.

Then we see Jesus, THE SECOND ADAM, “. . . *made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*” (Hebrews 2:9).

Jesus had to be MADE like his brethren, a little lower than the angels, to die for their sins; and is “. . . now *crowned with glory and honor* because he suffered death, so by the grace of God he could taste death for everyone.

On the other hand, the *glory and honor* bestowed upon man in his original, sinless state has been affected by the sin of disobedience. However, if we want to see what God created us to be, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT JESUS WHO IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH. He WAS the perfect human being and those who believe in Him will one day be like Him for we shall see him as he is.

Dominion Given to Man

⁶ You have made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea, all that swim in the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:6-8)

As part of this authority, mankind has the responsibility to wisely manage the creatures and resources of this earth in a way that gives God glory and is good for man.

You have put all things under his feet. The dominion of man extends to all things including sheep, oxen. . . beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. However, the Apostle Paul makes it clear as well as the writer of Hebrews 2:5-9 that the promise of dominion is only incompletely fulfilled among men because of the fall of man.

Our dominion is ULTIMATELY fulfilled in Jesus, the ultimate Man. We have dominion and victory through Jesus Christ not within ourselves, and one day it will be completely fulfilled in His resurrected believers.

Ends with Exaltation of God's Excellence

⁹ O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

When David thought about how vastness of God's creation, it made him praise God all over again. David understood **THAT THE POSITION OF MAN IN CREATION SAYS FAR MORE ABOUT THE GLORY OF GOD THAN ABOUT THE GLORY OF MAN.**

Even though the Psalm talks about man's place in the created order, the Psalm does not begin by talking about man, it begins and ends with a celebration of the most excellent Lord God of hosts.

Sources

2020 *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary* by David Guzik

A Study Guide with Introductory Comments, Summaries, Outlines, and Review Questions

<http://www.bible-studys.org/Bible%20Books/Psalms/Psalm%208.html>