

GOD'S MAJESTY AND GLORY

Psalm 8

Have you ever driven **I-70** across **Kansas** heading towards **Colorado**? Every time I've crossed **Kansas** and *eastern Colorado* and the mountains begin to come into view, I've always wondered... "*Can you imagine what the first settlers must have thought when they saw the Rocky Mountains?*" As they were riding in their wagons, being pulled by horses... as they got closer, and the mountains grew more *majestic*, they must have had *dueling thoughts*.

- On the one hand...how *beautiful* and *majestic* those mountains were.
- But then...how are we *going to get across* those mountains. Remember...they had just crossed **Kansas**...*flat and barren*... basically *purgatory*. And they had been *traveling for weeks*. Now they faced an *imposing* and *perilous obstacle* before them.

Even when I grew up in **Colorado**, I was always in *awe* of the *beauty* and *majesty* of the mountains. When I would stand on top of the different mountain *peaks* (*Mt. Evans, Longs Peak, Twin Sisters, Bald Mountain, Arapahoe Peak, Flagstaff Mountain, and others*) and look for miles...the *beauty* and *imposing grandeur* never grew old.

There *scope* and *size* can be *daunting*...it can make you feel very *small* and *insignificant*.

Other parts of our country have the *same effect* and draw the *same response*.

- If you've stood on the lip of the **Grand Canyon**.
- Been to **Yellowstone National Park**.
- Been to **Yosemite National Park**.
- Been to **Glacier National Park**.

Or maybe you've stood on the *beach* with your feet in the water and looked out over the vastness of an *ocean*. If so, you understand what I'm talking about. Look at a picture of **Mount Everest**...standing at **29,029 ft**. There *will always be* a type of *awe* and *grandeur* that creates in you a sense of *respect* and even *anxiousness*...because it can't be *tamed*!

Psalm 8 speaks to this very thing. **David** spent many nights in the fields as he tended to his *flock of sheep*. The *moon* lit the field and he could see the *stars* fill the sky.

As he began to write this **Psalm**, he marveled at the fact that our *glorious Lord of heaven* would *graciously use people* in the dominion of His *creation*. He remembered those countless nights he spent in the fields, *gazing at the heavens* and *stars*.

Throughout *all creation*, God's *unsurpassed greatness* and *glory* is *undeniable*...and *clearly seen*.

"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."

~Romans 1:20

God's *strength* is on *display*. From *creation* through the *vastness of the universe*...to the *weakness of man* who is *empowered* to overcome his *enemies*...the *world*, the *flesh*, and the *devil*. **All creation testifies...How great is our God!**

I. GOD'S SPLENDOR OVER ALL: (vs. 1)

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! (vs. 1)...

If the **Rockies** are *daunting*...if **Mount Everest**, the **Grand Canyon**, and the **oceans** are *imposing*...imagine the *One* who just *spoke*, and they *came into being* (Genesis 1).

O Lord...David first addresses God by His *personal name Yahweh*. And then in *repetition*, he addresses Him as...

Our Lord...He identifies Him as **Adonai**...as *Sovereign* or *Master*.

How majestic is Your name...reveals the *nature* and *character* of God...a name to be *exalted* above *all creation*. It stresses God's *dominion* over His *creation*.

Majestic...Heb. *adder*, means *splendor, glorious, stately, magnificent, powerful, or an imposing grandeur*. It's also translated **Mighty One**...making it directly related to God.

Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens ...**David** is basically saying...I look at the *stars*...I look at *heaven* a great distance away, and I know that Your *glory* and Your *presence* exceeds *all that*!

II. GOD'S STRENGTH OVER ALL: (vs. 2)

From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease (vs. 2)...

David marveled that God would use the *strength from children* to *silence* His *enemies*. This shows that God *uses the weak* to *defeat the mighty*. In this, God's *greatness* is further revealed. His *strength* is more than *sufficient* to *empower* the *weakest* of men and to *defeat* the *mightiest* of foes.

It's important to note...Jesus quoted this verse in **Matthew 21:15-16** when He responded to the *Pharisees* in the *Temple* when they *became indignant* when the children were shouting *"Hosanna to the Son of David..."*

The world is filled with people who *question, oppose*, and even *deny* God. They *belittle* His *majesty*, and *deny* His *deity* and His *creation*. God's response is **to make the**

enemy and the revengeful cease...and He does this through **the mouth of infants and nursing babes**.

That is why Jesus said...

"Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

~Luke 18:16

Children have a *better insight* into who God is than most adults.

III. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL: (vs. 3-8)

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

Notice it doesn't say...*the work of His arm*...it doesn't even say *the work of His hand*. It says...**the work of Your fingers!**

Our grandson **Grayson** loves *art*, and is quite good at it. Last fall, **Scott** and his family were at **Silver Dollar City**... and because **Grayson loves art** so much, they spent some time walking through the art displays. They ended up spending the majority of their time at a *sculptor's booth*! The man that was working on a particular piece of sculptor shared with them how he does his work.

He would *take the clay in his hands* and *begin to form* an animal. But after it *took shape*...and as he began to *put detail* into his creation...he would then *only use his fingers*! On the smallest, most detailed parts of the design, he would *only use his fingers*!

The **Psalmist** says...when I look at the heavens...it's **the work of Your FINGERS** that I'm looking at! You are so *big*, so *powerful*, so *magnificent*...yet this is **the work of Your FINGERS!**

Louie Giglio, in a sermon that he preached several years ago entitled...“**How Great is our God**” stated this...

The **Whirlpool Galaxy**...containing *300 billion stars* is *31 million light years* away from where we sit today! Here is what that means.

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. That means *light travels 5.88 trillion miles every year*. So take *5.88 trillion x 31 million*...and that's *how many light years* it will take you *to arrive at the Whirlpool Galaxy!!* And God *created* that **with His Fingers!** That's almost impossible to comprehend.

So let's look at something a little closer: If our *galaxy*...the **Milky Way**...were the *size of North America*, then our *entire solar system* would be the *size of a coffee cup*...and *earth* would be the *size of a dust particle* inside the coffee cup!

And the **Whirlpool Galaxy** and the **Milky Way** are only 2 of the *estimated billions of galaxies* that we know about...those that we can *SEE!!*

The *universe* might be way *bigger* than even that...and God *made all of that* with **His fingers!**

If God *created* all that with **His fingers**, and God *upholds* it all...*how great is our God!*

What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? (**vs. 4**)...

The *rhetorical questions* in **verse 4** emphasizes that *man is an insignificant creature* when compared to the *astounding work of creation*...yet God **cares for him immensely**.

Care for him...literally means *to go out and visit*.

This is why we see in the New Testament...

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”

~I Timothy 1:15

This is the *ultimate expression* that shows that the God of the universe *cares* and *loves us*...God *visited* His people!

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God...casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

~I Peter 5:6a, 7

He is the *maker of the universe*...yet He is *intimately acquainted* with *every circumstance* of your life.

Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! (vs. 5)...

Man was *created* in the *image of God* as God's *representative* on earth...*over creation*, but **lower than God**. **David** was amazed that God would *exalt finite man* to such a *place of honor*.

Glory...refers to *Shekhinah...the shining dwelling of the divine presence of God*.

Hebrews 2:5-8 quotes this *psalm* regarding the earth being subject to man.

“For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. But one has testified somewhere, saying, ‘What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? 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; 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.”

~Hebrews 2:5-8

You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas (vs. 6-8)...

David reflected on *man's position* as God's *representative* to *work* His *creation*. After God made **Adam** and **Eve**, He commanded them *to have dominion over all the earth* (**Genesis 1:28**). *All living creatures* were *to be under man's dominion*. But because of *sin* that *dominion* has never been *fully realized*.

Look at the *attributes* that are used in **verses 5-8**:

- *Crowned with glory.*
- *Crowned with majesty.*
- *Given dominion over creation.*
- *Everything has been put under the feet of man.*

These are *attributes* that are usually *used to describe* God ...and yet, under the *inspiration* of the Holy Spirit, **David** uses them *to describe us*.

This is why we must recognize the *sanctity of life*. Every human being has *value*...God *cares* for us.

In **1857** there was a *landmark case* before the **Supreme Court** called *Dred Scott vs. Sandford*.

In *Dred Scott vs. Sandford*, **Dred Scott** sued for the right to be a *free man*, and the **Supreme Court of the United States** (in what has been described as one the *darkest days* and one of the *worst decisions ever decided by the court*), on a *7 to 2 vote*, said *African-Americans were not*

American citizens and, therefore, were not able to tap into the *justice system*.

There were *two dissenting votes*. One of those dissenting votes came from **Supreme Court Justice John McLean**. Here's what he said:

“A slave is not mere chattel (a piece of property). He bears the impress of his Maker, and he is destined to an endless existence.”

Hear the *argument against slavery*? *Imago Dei...made in the image of God*. He isn't a mere *possession* or *piece of property*...he's a *man*...a *man* created in the *image of God*. The idea of *human-rights* comes from the *Imago Dei*...the idea that *every person has value* because they are *created in God's image*!

IV. GOD'S SUPREMACY OVER ALL: (vs. 9)

David ends his *psalm* the same way he started it...

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! (vs. 9)...

This is my *hope* today. That we might have our *eyes opened* and look around and see the *majesty of God*. That we might *dwell* on the *majesty* and *glory* of God...and that we might, like **David**, say, *“Who am I that you are mindful of me? Who am I that you would care about me?”*

In the *expanse of the universe*, I hope that you will be *cognizant* and *aware* that God has *set His affection* on you in His *all-knowing, ever-present power*.

On **April 30, 2013**, **Robert Galbraith** released his crime fiction novel, *Cuckoo's Calling*. It barely sold *500 copies* in the first *2 1/2 months*. Many store owners considered pulling the book from their shelves. But the news on **July**

14 changed all of that. It was announced that **Galbraith**, was not the true author. **J. K. Rowling** actually wrote and published the book under the *pseudonym Robert Galbraith*. From there, *sales skyrocketed*. It quickly rose to the top of multiple best-seller lists. The mere mention of **Rowling's name** *changed everything*.

The name of Jesus should impact Christians this way. The mention of Jesus should *launch our hearts into worship*. His name is *majestic in all the earth*. He is the King we *worship, trust, and treasure*.

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- Every believer's ultimate priority must be to give GLORY to God.

Just as this **Psalm** *begins* and *ends* with *praise to* God (**vs. 1, 9**)...so every believer's *thoughts* and *words*...even his *entire being*...must be filled with *praise* and *worship* for God. Because God is *Lord over all*...His *preeminence* must be declared with an *adoration* that is *personal* and *passionate*...both *public* and *private*.

- Contrary to popular thinking and belief...people are not the CENTER of the UNIVERSE...God is.

As a believer, we are to *live every moment* of every day *under the shadow* of God's *greatness*...seeking to bring *glory* and *honor* to Him. *True worship* will surely *flood our hearts* when we realize God's *unsurpassing greatness*.

- God is most glorified when His POWER fills man's WEAKNESS.

The *greatness* of God *is seen* in His *power* to *use the weakness of man* to *overcome temptation* and *live the victorious Christian life*.

Psalm 8

1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!

2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

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

4 What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?

5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!

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

7 All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!