

May 3, 2020 Psalm 8 “Our Majestic God That Cares for Puny People”

A summary of this chapter would be the glory of God reflected in the starry heavens, and God’s amazing condescension to be mindful of mortals. (From NIV Study Bible Notes)

- Verse 1, first part, **“Lord, our Lord,”** We belong to God and God takes care of us.
- And now the 2nd part of verse 1, **“how majestic is your name in all the earth!”**
- We call on God’s name to save us. – Psalm 116:4 **“Then I called on the name of the Lord: Lord, save me!”** Story of Parry’s calling on God in a frightening earthquake.
- His name is a protection, – Prov 18:10 **“The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”**
- Godly people trust in his name. – Psalm 20:7 **“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”**
- His people hope in his name. – Psalm 52:9 **“And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.”**
- Verse two reads: **“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”**
- Jesus referenced this verse in Matt 21:16 when the Pharisees told him to silence the children.
- This verse can be thought of in 2 ways. 1) Children trustingly accept the Gospel. 2) Children are weak, but even the weak are strong through praising God.
- We are strong in the Lord when we praise him, not because of who we are, but who He is.
- Now let’s look at verses 3 and 4. **“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”**
- David and other writers of the Bible probably did not understand the size and distance of stars from earth. Yet the Bible tells us the universe is spread out in Isaiah 42:5. The earth is round in Isaiah 40:22. The position of the stars is set in Jeremiah 31:35. Is this just poetic speech or does it show the Holy Spirit inspiring the Bible writers?
- Quote from agnostic unbeliever, Robert Jastrow who holds a Ph.D in theoretical physics and who was the first chairman of the Lunar Exploration Committee and founding director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies.
- Listen to what he said in an interview with Christianity Today magazine. "Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact."
- Later he wrote: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountain of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."
- Now let’s read verse 4 again. – **“what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”**
- God cares for us and seeks to have a relationship with us, though we are so much below him in existence.

- Then here are verses 5 and 6. ***“You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:”***
- According to Matthew Henry’s commentary the crown of glory refers to our ability to reason which enables us to be the rulers over creation.
- This section also is used to refer to Jesus in Hebrews 2:6-9. He was made lower than the angels for a short while, but He is now exalted above all spirits (angelic and demonic), and all leaders, and all the earth.
- Ephesians 1:21-23 shows his superiority over all. ***Jesus is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion,*** (that’s angels and the evil spirits, demons) ***and every name that is invoked*** (that means those who have authority and power), ***now and forever. God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.*** The church is his body. This means all the Christians of the world. It says Jesus ***fills everything in every way.***
- The church universal, that is all the Christians together on earth, are in the center of things, and the world is peripheral to it. It may not always seem that way now, but in the end, it will be clear to all.
- In closing I want to read from Philippians 2, verse 9-11 ***“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***