

Psalm 8

21st October 2018 am Hill

The Majesty of God

Psalm 8 is a beautiful hymn of delight in God. It is a Psalm that reveals something of the extraordinary and unique majesty of who God is.

I find that at times **my faith in God** is not as strong as it should be. At times my faith is weak and worship is dull.

I know I am **not alone** in this struggle.

Some of you have **commented** about your own struggles; longing for more vibrancy in your walk of faith; more zeal in your expression of worship; longing for a greater sense of awe; longing for God to more fully captivate your heart and mind.

To daily be loving God with all of your heart and soul and mind.

Psalm 8 is one of those gifts from God **to address** our dullness of faith and our mediocrity and apathy in worship.

This Psalm can **be likened** to what God gave Moses when he called out to God... *show me your glory.*

1 The superior greatness of God

As children we used to sing, “*We have a great big wonderful God...*” but what does that mean?

An elephant is big compared to an ant. The earth is bigger than the moon but the sun is bigger than the earth.

Your understanding of bigness is relative and is measured in terms what you know.

What then do you do when you want to describe God who is incomparable and therefore indescribable?

The Psalmist resorts to a note of exclamation! *Psalm 8:1 O Lord, our Lord. Followed by the best he can do with what he knows ...how majestic is your name in all the earth, you have set you glory above the heavens.*

Whether you look at anything on earth or you consider anything in the heavens above, it ‘chants forth’ the infinite superior greatness of God.

There isn’t a creature on earth; man or beast, plant or plankton that is not supported by the generous provision of God.

There isn’t a living creature that is self-sustaining and independent of divine abundance.

There isn't a place **where God is not**; whether you look at the earth with all its specific amazing wonders or whether you consider the immensity of the heavens above.

A snail that travels at 1mm per second must travel around the circumference of the world 4 times to allow enough time for a space craft to reach the closest star...

And **beyond that** there are galaxies and universes and black holes and more.

Isaiah 40:22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

God's glory exceeds the glory of the heavens; His superior greatness is above comprehension and full description.

Standing on top of Table Mountain is awe inspiring and breath-taking... **How much more** should the superior greatness of God stir you to wonder, love and awe?

We like **Job** ought to stand in awe and see the bigness of God *Job 9:8 who alone stretched out the heavens and*

trampled the waves of the sea; 9 who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

2 God does not need a reference

With my daughter finishing school this year she was required to fill out a report of **her achievements** while at the school.

On the basis of what she has accomplished the headmaster will write **a testimonial** for her. She will then have a reference she can use to support an application for a job or bursary.

In a similar way you will have discovered that if you don't have **a credit record** you won't be able to raise a loan to purchase a car or buy a house or have a cell phone.

Did you know that you can't get into Glenhaven if a pastor does not support your application?

We people are all **so dependent** on testimonials and referrals and recommendations and endorsements to get jobs and awards and recognition and places to stay and cars to drive...

God is in **a unique category** independent of recommendation and endorsement.

He does not need a majority to decide on his **worthiness**. He does not need the wealthy to back him. He does not need the intelligent to approve his wisdom.

He simply **by passes** the human designated positions of the distinguished or the accomplished.

Instead He raises up the simple, weak and helpless children to recognize his majesty.

When bishops and professors **defy and deny God and his word**; children sing gustily, "*Jesus love me this I know for the Bible tells me so*".

Jesus makes the point so powerfully to **the religious leaders** of His day

Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, 16 and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

This is Jesus quoting Psalms 8:2 *Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*

How often will children tell us and remind of God whom we have forgotten or neglected?

How often children **put to shame** those who should know better; but so often their pride drives them to silence and contempt.

Spurgeon: *“He who delights in the songs of angels is pleased to honour himself in the eyes of his enemies by the praise of his children”.*

What **a contrast** between the glory above the heavens (v1) and the mouths of babies and infants (v2); yet by both, the name of God is made excellent regardless of what the proud and arrogant claim.

3 The surprising concern God has for dust

As part of my training in engineering I wore a blue overall and worked on machines filled with grease and dirt. **I learned a lot** about cranes and gears and electric motors... and people.

In the main, bosses and managers and professionals don't associate with apprentices who have grease under their nails.

People love to **elevate themselves** about others. People love to disregard those they think are lesser mortals.

Sadly, at least to some degree **we are all guilty** of this. It is nothing other than foolish pride.

We who have **no reason** to elevate ourselves above others do so far too easily; but God who has every reason to legitimately be elevated and separated from sinful humanity has an interest in you.

We who are **constantly vulnerable and dependant**; exposed to varieties of disasters like storms, accidents, earthquakes, wars, disease and eventually sink to the grave where our bodies will have the worm as a companion foolishly bolster ourselves above others.

Man – that puny worm of dust, whose knowledge is so limited, and whose follies are so numerous has the audacity to strut in the haughtiness of pride...

Psalms 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

That should blow your mind. The honest and realistic truth is that in the **big scheme of creation** we people

are insignificant ... like a mere atom man appears amidst the immensity of creation!

Yet we are objects of the paternal care and mercy of God most High. Surprisingly God has an interest in you.

Don't miss the spectacular and amazing purpose for which God created the earth and the heavens; which we cannot even begin to speculate where it ends.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other. (Also Isaiah 51:16)

God created **a home for his family.** He has surprising concern for specs of dust.

4 God has given man a privileged position

We are dust but we are **special specs of dust.** *Psalms 8:5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings (eloheem pl)*

The Psalmist considering how man has been favoured by God goes **back to creation** and remembers the words from *Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ...27 So God created man*

in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Don't believe the lie of evolution. You are not a sophisticated ape.

You have been made to know God and, in some ways, (communicable attributes) **even to be like God. You have a nature radically different to the animals** *crowned him with glory and honour.*

And right from the very beginning man's right of dominion was established. *Genesis 26b ... And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

Psalms 8:6 You have given him dominion 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,

At the beginning man created in the image of God and given dominion over the works of God's hands.

But with the fall the image is cracked up and the dominion is abused. History and the present state of people in the world reveal people as depraved destroyers.

Rebellion to God and the destruction of creation are **the order of the day.**

There is however a further incredible aspect to this revelation from God in *Psalm 8*.

5 God's loving provision

The Psalmist incredibly pens these words pointing beyond Adam and the sons of Adam **to Jesus the perfect son of God.**

The earlier reference **by Jesus to the Pharisees** ... *And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"* ... shows how **Jesus sees this Psalm pointing to Him to be praised.**

Paul writing to the Corinthians affirming the physical resurrection of Jesus and the ultimate manifestation of his reign; also sees *Psalm 8* as Messianic *1 Corinthians 15:27* *For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."*

The writer to the **Hebrews** also quotes *Psalm 8* explaining the supremacy of Jesus over all things along with his substitutionary death for sinners.

Hebrews 2:6 *It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man,*

that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honour ...2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Jesus the God-man taking on human flesh sent by the Father living the perfect life no other could live; dying the death we should have died; raised from the dead; ascending to the right hand of the Father with all authority in heaven and on earth given to him;

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God provides **forgiveness and salvation** for the fallen special specs of dust. This Psalm ultimately pointing to the person and work of Christ saving sinners.

Conclusion

A revelation in this Psalm calls for a verdict. How do you respond to the superior greatness of God; are you

dull or apathetic in your worship of God? Or are you giving God the glory He deserves?

God who is incomparably great; who does not need a reference; **God** who shows surprising concern to fallen specs of dust who have a privileged position over creation; **God** who is Immanuel – **God** with us – the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Is your response of worship and faith in Christ **in the line with** what God is worthy of?

If so, to do all things to the glory of God; use this Psalm along with the many other songs and hymns of praise as a **song of delight**; as expression of worship to God.