

The Lord's Excellent Name

Psalm 8

Introduction

- 1) Everyone has a worldview, a particular way of looking at life.
- 2) It may be the god of the:
 - atheist – who saying there is no god, turns and worships himself.
 - pantheist – who worships creation and all that is.
 - deist – who tips his hat toward God convinced He is out there but doesn't care.
 - finite theist – whose impotent god is hardly worthy of worship.
 - panentheist – who thinks he senses a divine force running throughout the universe like an electrical charge we need to tap into.
 - polytheist – there is a smorgasbord of gods for the picking and choosing. And, the more the better.
- 3) Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise, of creation praise. The psalm looks back to Genesis 1-2 and God's Creation, especially His creation of man. However, it also looks forward in anticipation to the coming of a New Man, a second Adam, who will make right all that has gone wrong since sin entered the world through the 1st Adam's disobedience.

I. Praise the Lord for His glory. 8:1-2

Psalm 8 has 4 major components. The 1st (v.1) and the 4th (v.9) are identical.

- 1) He is glorious because He is my Lord. 8:1
 - *Yahweh* is His personal, covenant name revealed to the Hebrews. It occurs 5,321 times in the O.T. *Yahweh* carries within it both the idea of "the God who is and the God who will be."
 - David begins with 2 great names of God and wonderfully notes that Jehovah is our Lord, our governor, ruler, master.
- 2) He is glorious because He is a majestic God. 8:1-2
 - Little Israel is right, and the rest are wrong."
 - All of creation cannot contain His greatness, His majesty. And yet His greatness is displayed in little things as well, such as in the simple and even humiliating manner in which God dismisses His enemies.
 - Paul said something similar to this in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Jesus applies v. 2 to Himself in Matthew 21:15-16 as He made his great entry into Jerusalem.

II. Praise the Lord for His grandeur. 8:3-4

- 1) He created the big things. 8:3
The "work of Your fingers." This is what we call an anthropomorphism, ascribing human characteristics to God in order to make a point. The point is this: creating billions of stars in billions of galaxies is child's play to God.
- 2) He cares for the little things. 8:4
"What is man (*enosh*) that You are mindful (*NASV*, "take thought") of him, and the son of man (*ben adam*) that You visit (give attention to or care for) him?" David feels dwarfed and shamed into insignificance at the greatness of creation and the smallness of humanity. But infinite God cares for finite man. The God who created the big things also cares for the little things, even you and even me.

III. Praise the Lord for His goodness. 8:5-8

David notes both the dignity and responsibility with which God has endowed mere mortals. Pure grace, pure goodness is the only thing we can say.

1) We are crowned with honor. 8:5

- Draw your dignity from God not beast.
- As His vice-regents and delegated authority on earth, we are crowned with glory (like God, cf v. 1!) and honor. This should impact our sense of what it means to be human.
- Lose sight of who man really is and you lose sight of who God really is in all of His majesty. And lose sight of God and His majesty and the world goes bizerk!” If we do, as Alistar Begg notes, we devolve into nothing more than a monkey or a machine, neither of which has inherit value, dignity or worth.

2) We are commissioned as rulers. 8:6-8

We have been fashioned by God for dominion and rulership.

Under our feet is a symbolic act in the Ancient Near East to demonstrate superiority over a defeated enemy or foe.

- And yet is this true now? Verses 6-8 direct us back to the idyllic scene of the Garden of Eden, but they also drive us to look to the future asking, wondering, can Paradise be regained?
- The book of Hebrews says yes! It is in the new Man Jesus. (see Hebrews 2:9-10).
- Paul saw a specific implication and application of Psalm 8 in Eph. 1:22-23.
- Paul also saw the eschatological and Christological impulse pulsating through the heart of this Psalm. In 1 Cor. 15:24-28 Paul sees the last enemy which is death destroyed and all things brought under subjection to the Son of God who will give it all back to the Father from where it all came.
- Paradise lost will be Paradise regained because of a man, a man of God’s own choosing, even Jesus our Lord.

IV. Praise the Lord for His greatness. 8:9

- Psalm 8 ends as it begins, on a note of praise.

1) He has a great name.

Yahweh “is a majestic name for a majestic God. The word “excellent” can be rendered majestic (*NASV, ESV, NIV*). The word carries the related idea of mighty. God has an impressive, even intimidating name when you see the awesomeness of the one who bear that name.

2) He has a great reign.

It is all the earth. It all belongs to Him. All of it is under His Lordship.

Conclusion

- J.I. Packer says, “we are at the end of 4 centuries of God shrinking.” He gets smaller while we get bigger. The Bible does not see it this way. David did not see it this way. We must not see it this way.