

*December 17, 2017*  
*"God's Glory in Christ's Birth"*  
*Psalm 8; Luke 2:9-14*

*I. His glory is seen in His earthly creation –*

<To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.> O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth ... (Psalm 8:1 NKJ)

*Where do we see God's glory?*

- *In the lightning that fertilizes the ground*
- *In exquisite beauty of snowflakes*
- *In the growth of a Giant Redwood from a tiny seed*
- *In the flight of a bird / the design of a hummingbird or woodpecker*

*The more our eyes are right the more we will see God's hand in everything!*

*II. His glory is higher or greater than the heavens –*

**... Who have set Your glory above the heavens! (Psalm 8:1 NKJ)**

*What does it mean that God's glory is above the heavens?*

*Surely, He is greater than the Heavens which He created –*

**"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! (1 Kings 8:27 NKJ)**

- Our earth is 8,000 miles in diameter.
- The Moon is 240,000 miles from earth.
- The Sun is 400 times further from us than the Moon is, 93 million miles
- Neptune's orbit is 30 times greater than the earth, Pluto is even further
- If the orbits of all the planets in our solar system were placed in a cube, the cube would be 6 BILLION MILES to a side!
- 4,278 such solar system cubes fit between ours and the next nearest!
- Sirius is the brightest star in our night sky because it is relatively near, 50 trillion miles away; it is twice the diameter of our Sun.
- The star Rigel stretches 70 Suns across.
- Betelgeuse 400 light years away, is a star 600 times the diameter of our sun, if it were in the center of our solar system we would be inside it.
- Beyond this, still in our own galaxy, we see globular clusters of stars, these are clusters of thousands of stars, there are about 100 such

globular clusters in our Milky Way Galaxy, which is 80,000 light years across (a light year is 5.88 trillion miles)

- Yet, our Galaxy is just one of BILLIONS of Galaxies in our Universe  
*Yet Christ, even while lying as a babe in a manger, is GREATER THAN ALL of this!*

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup>What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? (Psalm 8:3-4 NKJ)

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23 NKJ)

*III. His glory is seen in the perfect praise of babes and infants –*

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. (Psalm 8:2 NKJ)

1. *The LEAP of John the Baptist, in his mother Elizabeth's womb, at the greeting of Mary, who had Jesus in her womb, is a wonderful example not only of baby praise, but of pre-born praise –*

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!" <sup>43</sup>"But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" <sup>44</sup>"For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (Lk. 1:41-44 NKJ)

2. *This praise of Jesus from children continued -*

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant <sup>16</sup>and 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 babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise '?" (Matthew 21:15-16 NKJ)

*IV. His glory is seen in the position He gave man in creation and His mindfulness ultimately shown in the redemption accomplished by Christ –*

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup>What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? <sup>5</sup>For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, <sup>7</sup>All sheep and oxen-- Even the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. (Psalm 8:3-8 NKJ)

*In Psalm 8 David elaborates on God's mindfulness:*

1. God has placed human beings in an honorable position, "a little lower than the angels"
2. God has given us dominion over the animals /creation /earth
3. This militates against the false ideas of evolution /atheism
4. Yet the ultimate example of God's mindfulness is displayed by the Second Person of the Godhead, Who became man, our Lord Jesus Christ –

But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? <sup>7</sup>You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. <sup>8</sup>You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is not* put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. <sup>9</sup>But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup>For it was fitting for Him, for Whom *are* all things and by Whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, (Hebrews 2:6-11 NKJ)

- A. In Hebrews 2, we see Psalm 8 quoted in verses :6-8
- B. Here the "mindfulness" mentioned in Psalm 8 is displayed in:  
:9 – Christ dying for us  
:10 – His bringing many "sons" to glory meaning us who are now children of God, because He was willing to become a MAN!  
:11 – His making us "ONE" with Himself and calling us "brethren."
- C. Hebrews 2 continues telling us how Christ could do these things, only by the incarnation, only by becoming a HUMAN HIMSELF –

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Hebrews 2:14 NKJ)

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17 NKJ)

#### V. His glory is seen in the repeated praises of His redeemed people –

<To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.> O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! (Psalm 8:1 NKJ)

O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8:9 NKJ)

1. Our MOUTHS are wonderful things!

A. They can be dead and full of poison –

<sup>13</sup> "Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asp's *is* under their lips"; <sup>14</sup> "Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness." (Rom 3:13-14 NKJ)

B. Yet, they are also capable of praising God –

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps. <sup>3</sup>He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:2-3 NKJ)

*David starts and finishes Psalm 8 with PRAISE!*

2. The shepherds both evangelized and praised –

Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup>And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2:17-18 NKJ)

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (Luke 2:20 NKJ)

*We too, are called to praise - Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3 NKJ)*

*Arnold A. Brevick*