

The theme of Psalm 8 is very easy to see because the psalm begins and ends with the exact same wording, which clearly expresses its central theme: “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth.” However, the actual meaning of the psalm is not so easy to decipher.

We know from the superscription that this psalm was written by David for the choir director and the background instrument on which it was to be played was a “Gittith.” Now the etymology of this Hebrew word is not easy to determine. Most believe the term “Gittith” refers to a musical instrument that originated or was found in Gath (II Sam. 15:18). Men who lived in Gath were called Gittites, which would make this conclusion logical. An English student cannot help but see there is a similarity between “Gittith” and “Guitar.” Although we do not know for sure what this instrument actually was, it is certainly possible that there is a connection.

Before we actually tackle the psalm, there are four preliminary observations we want to make:

Preliminary Observation #1 - There are three different names used for God.

“LORD” (v. 1, 9) is the name Jehovah, which emphasizes God’s self-existing sovereignty in a covenant relationship with Israel; “Lord” (v. 1, 9) is the name Adonai, which emphasizes He is master, ruler and owner of all things; “God” (v. 5) is the name Elohim, which emphasizes the fact that He is the Triune supreme God.

Preliminary Observation #2 - The key word used to describe God is “majestic.”

The word “majestic” in Hebrew specifically speaks of the fact that God is the great, magnificent and glorious God. This specific word has in it the idea of God being the Sovereign Leader who is mighty and powerful (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 13).

Preliminary Observation #3 - God’s name is not now majestic in all the earth.

The truth is God’s name is not even majestic today in many churches. **The primary application of this psalm is for a time when God’s name will be majestic in all of the earth and that will be when Jesus Christ is reigning in all of the earth during the Millennium and forever from that point.**

Preliminary Observation #4 - The thing that struck David was the fact that the Majestic Jehovah was Israel’s Adonai.

David was awed by the fact that the self-existing, Sovereign God was his God and Israel’s God. He was humbled by the reality that Almighty God was Israel’s personal ruler and owner. It seems to me that this gets at the heart of the theme:

WHEN A BELIEVER IS IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, HE WILL BE HUMBLLED BY THE REALITY THAT THE SOVEREIGN, HOLY, GREAT, MAJESTIC GOD ACTUALLY CHOSE HIM AND HAS ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH MAN.

This is a creation praise psalm.

Now many believe that David was out under the stars looking up into the sky when he started thinking about these things. He was meditating on the power of God in the universe He created. As he thought about that and then realized this majestic, sovereign God was actually his God, he was deeply moved and he penned this psalm.

There are eight realities that brought David to realize just how majestic God was:

REALITY #1 – The reality of the heavens. **8:1b**

When one looks up high into the sky, you do see the “splendor” of God. When we look up and see the sun, the moon, the stars and planets, when we see the galaxies and then look beyond into the deep blue or black chasm, it all testifies of the greatness of God. All of the heavens display the immensity of God and the majesty of God.

Now the ultimate display of majesty and splendor of God exists “above the heavens” which is the location of the Throne of God. There is no more majestic place than this. Even though David had not personally seen that place yet, he obviously knew of it.

There is an unseen world that displays the majesty of God at an ultimate level and someday we shall behold it.

REALITY #2 – The reality of babies. **8:2a**

Those who embrace a Darwinian theory of evolution or who promote abortion had better think very seriously about what is said right here in this psalm because it is impossible to be in a right relationship with God and worship God and praise the name of God if you do not see the creative genius of God in the baby.

The strength and majesty of God are displayed in babies. A new baby is a remarkable demonstration of the majesty of God. There is a great mystery and majesty to the life of an infant.

Dr. Swindoll said that he had an obstetrician friend who testified that before he became a Christian he could not ignore the power of God as he delivered and then held in his hands one tiny, screaming infant after another. He said that this ultimately led him to search for answers in the Bible and finally find salvation in Jesus Christ.

There is no question that infants and nursing babes do declare the power and majesty of God. So in **verse 1**, God displays His greatness in something as large as the universe and in **verse 2** God displays His greatness in something as small as a baby.

Even Jesus said that the greatest demonstration of God’s majesty is not by scribes and scholars, but by babes (Mt. 11:25).

REALITY #3 – The reality of silenced enemies. **8:2b**

The splendor above the heavens and the little babies on earth display the power of the majestic God, and His majestic power is also displayed when He causes His enemies and adversaries to cease. In other words, the majesty of God is displayed by the silencing and the removal of enemies. In fact, to make God's name majestic in "all the earth," God will have to remove all of His enemies.

We do need to think about this. An enemy or adversary does not just go away on his own, so who is it that intervenes to make him go away? The answer is the Majestic God. Dr. Merrill Unger said, "The enemy and the avenger will be silenced (made to cease) as the result of the strength (power) of God manifested in response to this childlike faith of the future remnant."

Of course, we realize that there is an infant who was born who will ultimately cause all enemies of God to cease. His name is Jesus. When He accomplishes what is described here, God's name will be majestic in all the earth.

REALITY #4 – The reality of the planets. **8:3**

When we examine the O.T. we see that God calls creation his "finger work" and He calls salvation His "arm work" (Is. 52:10; 53:1; 59:16). John Wesley said, "God created the heavens and the earth and didn't half try."

Many commentators believe that David's reference to the moon and stars indicate that he was writing this psalm at night. He was probably gazing up into the sky on a dark and starry night. There is no question that the sky at night filled with the stars and the moon is majestic to see.

The next time you see it remember this is only God's finger work. God, metaphorically speaking, used His fingers to frame and form the world. All of His heavenly bodies have their appointed place and purpose.

These things are majestic, but they are also only His finger work. Think of how majestic God really is when this is only His finger work.

REALITY #5 – The reality of the existence and position of man. **8:4-6**

David marveled that God, in all of His majesty, would have anything to do with man in all of his depravity. The Hebrew word for "man" is one that refers to man that is weak, sick and frail when compared to God. David marveled at the fact that God was connected to man. We know specifically from the writer of Hebrews that these verses are directly and prophetically connected to Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:6-9). There are five profound thoughts David had:

(Thought #1) - He marveled that God even thought about man. **8:4a**

Now the specific thing David was thinking about was not that God just thought that man was so cute on the earth. David was thinking about the fact that God thought about man in all of his depravity and decided to offer him a way out of his sin.

(Thought #2) - He marveled that God cared about man. **8:4b**

The reference to the “son of man” clearly has a connection to the fact that God cared enough about man to send His Son as a sacrifice for him. The specific care David was thinking about was soteriological.

(Thought #3) - David marveled that God made man lower than God and would make Christ appear on earth lower than angels. **8:5a**

NIV: AV translates Elohim “angels”; NASV “God”; Septuagint uses angels; Hebrew is Elohim. Here was the great Creator appearing less than the angels. When Christ came to this earth, He did not seem to look like one who was the Creator; He appeared to be lower than the angels He created. If we apply it to man–God made him lower than God. If we apply it to Jesus Christ–God made Him lower than angels.

We humans appear and behave at times to be lower than the animals. Jesus never did. But He did appear to be lower than the angels.

(Thought #4) - David knew that God would crown Christ with the glory and majesty of God. **8:5b**

The end result is that God will crown Christ with the glory and majesty of God.

(Thought #5) - David knew that Christ would rule over everything. **8:6**

Part of being made in God’s image was the right to rule over God’s creation. Through sin man somewhat lost that right. Jesus Christ will restore it. As David was looking up into the sky, he was thinking about the fact that Almighty God was willing to give up His glorious appearance as God to come to this earth to save us. He was thinking about the fact that one day, according to **verse 6**, Jesus Christ will rule the world and all things will be under His feet.

REALITY #6 – The reality of animals. **8:7**

All of the animals testify of the majesty of God. Every animal in the world reveals the glory of God and one day all animals will be subject to Jesus Christ.

REALITY #7 – The reality of birds. **8:8a**

All the birds of the air have been created by God and one day they will be subject to Jesus Christ.

REALITY #8 – The reality of fish. **8:8b**

All the fish in the deep have been created by God and one day it will all be subject to God.

Everything David saw displayed the glory and majesty of God. He thought about how God has cared for man by allowing these wonderful animals to be in existence and when he thought about these things he said, “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth.”

Practical Applications of Psalm 8:

1. On some dark and starry night go outside and look up into heaven and praise God for His majesty.
2. When you see an animal, a bird or a fish, praise God for His majesty.
3. When you see a baby, praise God for His majesty.
4. When you realize that God has personally thought about you, praise God for His majesty.
5. When you realize that Christ will someday rule over all the earth, praise God for His majesty.

Make it a point this week to say “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth.”