

Subject: Things to Consider

Scripture: Psalm 8:1-9

Every once in while something takes place in this world to grab the attention of most people. The solar eclipse is such an event. People have been talking about it for weeks and months. Maybe people will think about something other than their daily routine, the hottest movie, football, or texting on their cell phone. We hope that the eclipse will cause people to think about some things they don't often think about. Psalm 8 suggests three of these things.

1. Consider God's glory

In its structure this is an envelope psalm. It begins and ends with the same words. This psalm is a call to worship. Every believer's priority in life should be worshiping and giving God the glory He deserves. Life is all about God and not us. The name of God represents who He is.

This psalm describes the glory of God. His glory is the sum total of all His attributes.

- God is self-existent, eternal, unchangeable

LORD is the name "Jehovah" or "I AM." This is the personal, proper name for God. The name was considered to be so sacred that it was not pronounced out loud. This is the covenant name for God. ***Exodus 3:14** And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

- God is personal

He is "our Lord," the one who loves and cares for His people. He is personally involved in the lives of people. He is both transcendent (above and beyond us) and immanent (with us).

- God is majestic

The word "excellent" (Heb., *addir*) can be translated glorious, famous, mighty, great, or magnificent. The name "Lord" (Heb., *Adonai*) means Master or Lord. This name is found 55 times in Psalms, and is often found in phrases such as "Lord of all the earth" and "Lord of lords." He is the Lord who has all authority, power, and rule. He is not just a national God, but the Lord over all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1), and yet His glory is far above the heavens. Creation gives only a glimpse of the Creator's glory. ***Psalms 113:1-6**¹ Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.² Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.³ From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.⁵ Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,⁶ Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!*

- God is sovereign

God uses unlikely people and methods to accomplish His purposes (vs. 2). He uses weak instruments to defeat the mighty. ***1 Cor. 1:27-29**²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to*

confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:* ²⁹ *That no flesh should glory in his presence.* God is able to take the weakest people and overturn the mightiest foes.

2. Consider God's creation

Psalm 8 is not only an envelope psalm, it is a creation psalm. Many of the psalms refer to God's power and control in the physical world.

- God is omnipotent

The heavens are His heavens, the work of His fingers. He has ordained the moon and stars. He has created everything in the universe, all the stars, planets, and galaxies. The whole universe is merely the work of His fingers.

- The distance from Earth to the Moon is 238,900 miles
- The distance from Earth to the Sun is almost 93 million miles
- The distance from Earth to the nearest star is 4.22 light years

If you were on board a rocket traveling 25,000 miles per hour, it would take you 10 hours to get to the moon, 152 days to arrive at the sun, and 114,000 years to reach the nearest star. The universe is vast, but it is small in comparison to God. Creation was an easy project for God. The Bible describes that God created billions of stars in five short words, **Genesis 1:16** *He made the stars also.* God created them, counts them, and controls them. **Isaiah 40:26** *Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.* He upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3) and by Him all things consist (hold together, Col. 1:17). He is the glue of the galaxies.

3. Consider God's grace

Psalm 8 is not only an envelope psalm and a creation psalm, it is a messianic psalm. It is quoted in the New Testament in reference to Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:6-9).

How amazing that this great and glorious God focuses His attention on us and meets our needs. He is mindful (thinks) of us and visits (gives attention to) us. God didn't create us and then desert us, leaving us to make it on our own, yet most people want to live independently of God. This psalm poses the question, "What is man that You (God) are mindful of him?"

Some highly educated people have drawn foolish conclusions about the nature of man. Darwin said man is a highly developed animal. Freud said man is an underdeveloped child. Marx said man is only an economic factor. Plato described man as a featherless biped. Mark Twain apologized for man and said that God made human beings at the end of creation week when He was tired. Of course, all of these statements are absurd. What does Psalm 8 say about mankind?

- Compared to God, man is weak, mortal, and limited

Two words are used to describe man in verse 4. The first word is the Hebrew word, *enosh*, which means weak, frail, mortal man.

- Compared to creation, man is a small speck

The second word is the Hebrew, *adam*, which means dust. Man is a speck of dust.

Psalms 103:14 *For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

We are like ants on a tiny speck in a vast universe. David often looked up to the starry sky at night and he wondered why God would pay attention to man.

- Man is a little lower than the angels.

Angels are spirit beings; man is a physical being. Angels are immortal; man is mortal. Angels have incredible power; man is weak and limited.

- Man is crowned with glory and honor

Although we are small and insignificant in comparison to God's universe, we are the most valuable of all God's creatures. God took a small, insignificant creature and elevated him to an important position. Man is God's crowning achievement. We are made in the image of God, which means we have a moral nature like God.

- Man is God's appointed ruler on earth

God entrusted man with dominion or control over the animals. We were designed to rule this world for God. It was evident that Adam had dominion over the animals because he gave them names. But something happened. Adam sinned and forfeited his right to rule. Jesus is called "the last Adam" and through Him, God will eventually restore our dominion.

Hebrews 2:7-9⁷ *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*⁸ *Thou hast 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 see not yet all things put under him.*⁹ *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 should taste death for every man.*

We need to consider God's glory, God's creation, and God's grace. Consider the words from this great hymn,

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

Alas! And did my Savior bleed

And did my Sovereign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

Well might the sun in darkness hide

And shut His glories in,

When Christ, the mighty Maker died

For man the creature's sin.