

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

**THE WORLD IS THE THEATER OF GOD’S GLORY!**

How many stars are there? No one knows, of course, but scientists estimate something like 300 sextillion (there are around 200 billion of them just in our little galaxy). Three hundred sextillion is a 3 followed by 23 zeroes or a hundred billion times 3 trillion. After a while it gets completely absurd; it’s absolutely unimaginable. Even then these are only rough estimates—there could be many times that. Factor in that we really have no idea where or if the universe ends, and it gets more mind-boggling still.

- **If that didn’t make sense, let me highlight just two stars:**
  - **The Sun:** It is one million times the size of Earth. If the earth were the size of a golf ball, the sun would be 15 feet in diameter.
  - **Betelegeuse:** It is twice the size of the earth’s orbit around the sun. 262 trillion earths can fit inside this star.
  - *and there are even bigger stars out there! How amazing!*

As a commentator has said: *“Notwithstanding the amazing magnitude of the sun, we have abundant reason to believe that some of the fixed stars are much larger: and yet we are told they are the work of GOD’S FINGERS! What a hand, to move, form, and launch these globes!”* (Clarke quoted in Guzik).

*Background to Psalm 8*

- **Author:** Written by David.
- **Genre:** This is a hymn of praise; a psalm of creation together with Psalms 33, 104, and 145
  - Gerald Wilson says: **“Having wended our way in five consecutive psalms (Psalms 3-7) through the dark valleys of lament and pleas for deliverance, we hear the strains of a joyful melody rising from just beyond the steep hill represented by Psalm 7, and we arrive at the crest to discover a welcome prospect of breathtaking beauty and awesome delight”**

**THESIS—**We want to see how we should respond to the glorious power & amazing character of God as revealed in this psalm.

*God's glory is the overarching theme of this psalm. His creation of man, in His image, and His placement of man in an honored position of dominion over the earth, is ultimately designed for His own eternal glory.*

This psalm is meant to incite us to mouth-dropping awe & ever-increasing humility at the wondrous glory of God—and yet he cares for *you* and *me*!

**This is a compelling call to worship!**

**I. BOW BEFORE GOD’S GLORY! (1-3)**

**What does God reign over?**

**a. Over the earth (1a)**

- i. Yahweh ... *our* Lord (“Master”). What a possession we have—***Yahweh Adonai!***
- ii. majestic, marvelous, splendid. How splendid is God! The word refers to *something which is SUPERIOR to something else* (in a category all of its own).
  1. “The idea of ‘majestic’ is a royal attribute denoting his victories (Ex 15:6), his might in judgment (Ps 76:4), his law (Isa 42:21), and his rule over creation (Ps 93:4) (VanGemeren, 110).
  2. It has the idea of an impressive—almost intimidating—power on display for all to see (Wilson, 201).
- iii. Your name—the sum total of God’s attributes. How God has revealed Himself in creation, revelation, in works, etc.
- iv. in all the earth; this is not like the “**local Baal**” deity that each city had. No, Yahweh doesn’t only rule over *a city*, he rules ***over all the earth***.
  1. **Psalm 97:1** The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.

**b. Over the heavens (1b)**

- i. **your glory**; weight, power, splendor, majesty.
- ii. God has placed his glory, weight, power, splendor ***upon/over*** the heavens  
**III. Note: Remember, David is probably recalling the many nights as a shepherd boy looking up at the skies and marveling at God’s great power displayed in the heavens.**
  1. **Psalm 19:1** The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
  2. **Genesis 15:5** "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them."

**c. Over his creatures (2a)**

- i. **infant; young child**, toddler
  1. Job 3:16 speaks of the “child” as an infant who never saw light (an unborn child!).
- ii. **the word used for a nursing child**; a helpless, dependent, weak, frail and small suckling child.
  1. **The point is that even from the “weakest” and most “insignificant” of God’s creatures...**
- iii. **God still ordains praise**; he has laid the foundations of; he has destined, or appointed strength or might/praise.

1. **1 Corinthians 1:27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
  2. **Psalm 150:6** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!
- d. **Over his enemies (2b)**
- i. God receives praise from the weak and insignificant babes in order to silence the foes!
    1. Even the praise of the weak, helpless, and frail can **silence** the enemy and the avenger!
- e. **Over his works (3)**
- i. **David remembering his shepherd days again.** The heavens are the works of his *fingers*!
  - ii. **Note:** the Hebrew *wordplay* between and heavens (here) and your name (v.1)– *very similar sounds*= *memorable!* The Hebrew poets make use of *all* of the Hebrew word—not only meaning, but sound!
  - iii. **The Creation of God:** The moon and stars are the works of *God’s fingers*—He established them!
    1. The work of his fingers signifies the “*personal mark of God’s creating and working*” (cf. Isa 40:26)
  - iv. God’s “**Fingers**” creating the heavens...
    1. **Personal mark**
    2. **Powerful act**
    3. **Precise placement**
    4. **Preserves constantly**
  - v. *Let me ask you...what has your view of God been characterized by? A big God? A small God? An insufficient God? A God who can’t handle your problems?*
    1. **WHAT SHAPES and FORMS your theology of God?**
    2. from the heavens above to the hounding enemies; from the moon & the stars to the toddlers & the nursing infants---**God is infinitely glorious! And we should BOW before Him!**
  - vi. *Today, be amazed anew at the awesome greatness of God! **STAND! MARVEL! THINK! LOOK! GAZE! WONDER! WORSHIP! BOW!***

## II. MARVEL AT MAN’S DIGNITY! (4-8)

*Here is the apex of this Psalm—the chanting, loud crescendo of the Psalm!*

Interestingly, God’s glory sparks the contemplation & the awe as human beings peek into the endless canvas of creation!

*But only human beings have the intelligence & dignity to contemplate this!!*

**a. God made you in his image (4-5)**

i. v.4- man, the most humblest form for a human; one who is **frail** and impotent

1. **Psalm 90:3** <sup>3</sup> You turn man back into dust And say, "Return, O children of men."

ii. this signifies that man is earthborn—that is, bound in human nature (from the ground/dust/earth).

*1. Same idea as Psalm 103:14* <sup>14</sup> For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.

iii. you remember... you visit him.

*David marvels at the astonishing reality that the Sovereign Creator God of the Universe would take not only an interest in, but pursue a relationship with human beings!*

iv. v.5 - **you made him** - this is **emphatically emphatic** in the Hebrew.

v. **Than God** - you made *mankind* a little lower than **God Almighty!** (ESV/NIV “heavenly beings” or KJV “angels”).

*1. That is to say, mankind is the crowning masterpiece of God’s handiwork.*

2. To whom of the other creatures did God say: **Genesis 1:26** “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”?

vi.—glory and honor - With glory and splendor you crowned him.

*1. This is the dignity that God has graciously given to mankind!*

*2. “The dignity of man is a gift of God and requires a relationship of responsibility as well as a response of praise to the good Creator”*

**b. God gives you dominion in his creation (6-8)**

i. **Works of your hands** = David prays and says to God: *you caused man to rule over the works of your hands*—everything is placed under the feet of mankind.

**Note the clear connection here with Genesis 1:26-31**

**ii. Flocks (7), Birds (8a), Sea animals (8b)**

1. Flocks, domestic animals, livestock and every beast and all the cattle of the field. Man has dominion!

iii. *God has given to man dominion over his creation!* When we keep in mind the bigness of God and the splendor of God that will draw us to praise and worship God.

1. *What profundity that the GLORIOUS GOD of HEAVEN & EARTH would care for, seek out, & delegate responsibility to frail, feeble, fickle human beings?*

2. *Remember this axiom:*

Praise Prevents Pride!

### III. **BOW BEFORE GOD’S GLORY REPRISE! (9)**

Here we continue the compelling call to worship!

#### a. Over all the earth (9)

- i. **David concludes** in a normal way of emphasizing to make his point memorable. His point is this: ***Yahweh, the Sovereign Master of the Universe is Majestic in ALL his attributes and character over ALL the earth.***

*Do you feel the call to praise God? Our thoughts, our words and even our entire lives must be filled with praise for God!*

### **Psalm 8 in the NT: yes — in Matthew 21:16 & Ephesians 1.22.**

#### **Let’s focus on Hebrews 2:**

- **Hebrews 2:5-9**—though all things are not under man’s control, Jesus, the greater *Man* came and is greater than the angels.
  - **Where man failed—Christ succeeded!**
  - Though *angels* are highly esteemed to the Jewish people and the writer to Hebrews shows how Jesus is more superior than the angels in chapters 1-2, so here he shows how **Jesus is greater than even the angels!**

#### CONCL-

##### *Concluding Illustration*

- Remember that the point of the psalm is *God’s Glory*—not man’s glory. Man is only given dignity because of the amazing grace of God. MAN is not the center of the universe—God is!
- **And just consider...** the glorious God who moves the massive planets in the billions of galaxies is One who *humbled himself, clothed Himself in humanity & became subject to the world that He created **SO THAT** he might redeem for himself a people for His own possession.*
  - **Embrace Christ! He SUCCEEDED where we fail. And he HELPS YOU when you do fail. He can relate to your temptations!**
  - **Remember Christ—His glory, His humanity, His death, His righteousness!**
    - What is there that prevents you from pursuing God?
    - What has God asked you to do to serve Him?

**This is a compelling call to worship! Worship!**