

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# GREAT CONSIDERATION

## PSALMS 8

Text: Psalms 8:3

### ***Psalm 8:3***

<sup>3</sup> ***When I consider*** thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Introduction:

As we read this psalm, we notice that the first and last verses are exactly the same.

### ***Psalm 8:1***

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the  
earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

### ***Psalm 8:9***

<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the  
earth!

For this reason, many Bible scholars refer to psalms like this one as “envelope Psalms.”

The psalmist makes a declaration, and then proceeds to justify it. Having done so, he then concludes by making the same declaration again.

David begins this psalm by declaring the majesty of God. He then proceeds to justify his statement by explaining his reasons for declaring, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Note:

## **1. THE MAJESTY OF HIS WORKS - VS. 1B-2**

### ***Psalm 8:1-2***

*<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. <sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*

#### A. His creation of the world - v. 1b

David speaks in verse 3 of his consideration of the heavens.

### ***Psalm 8:3***

*<sup>3</sup> When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

He declares, “You have set Your glory above the heavens!”

No doubt, as a shepherd boy, he had watched the stars night after night.

He knew well the moon and the stars; and knew enough to be awed at the might, the majesty, and the mystery of God as creator.

When Galileo turned his telescope on the sky and announced to the world that the earth was not the center of the universe, an outraged pope ordered him to deny his discovery. But it was no use: the secret was out!

There was far more out there than man had ever dreamed. There were stars and planets in incomprehensible number, of staggering dimensions, traveling at unthinkable speeds, reaching further and further into unimaginable depths, and all of it is a tribute to the majesty of God.

David observed in verse 3, it is the work of His finger!

***Psalm 8:3***

<sup>3</sup> *When I consider thy heavens, **the work of thy fingers**, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

Note not only “His Creation of the World” but also:

## B. His conquest of the wicked - v. 2

### ***Psalm 8:2***

*<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.*

The word, “strength” is the same word as “praise.”

David’s point is that God doesn’t need armies to conquer His foes, He can do so through the humblest of means imaginable - a little infant.

David may have had Moses in mind. To humble Pharaoh, God did not summon the Assyrians or mobilize the Macedonians.

Instead, He sent a baby to a Hebrew home.

The infant was hidden among the bulrushes and found by Pharaoh’s daughter.

As the princess looked down at the little boy, he cried. That tear moved the heart of Pharaoh’s daughter, and, ignoring her father’s decree, she raised that Hebrew child as her own.

She called him Moses, and in the fullness of time, God used Moses to humble Egypt.

God's majesty is seen in His conquest of the wicked.

Remember God can conquer His foes through the use of the weakest vessel imaginable - an infant - we cannot help but reflect on the baby born in Bethlehem, in the fullness of time.

The child Christ has conquered the kingdom of Satan.

God's majesty is seen in His conquest of the wicked!

## **2. THE MAJESTY OF HIS WAYS - vs. 3-8**

### ***Psalm 8:3-8***

*<sup>3</sup> When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

*<sup>4</sup> What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? <sup>5</sup> For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. <sup>6</sup> Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: <sup>7</sup> All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; <sup>8</sup> The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*

Note:

A. The personal interest He has in us - vs. 3-4

**Psalm 8:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

<sup>4</sup> ***What is man, that thou art mindful of him?*** *and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

How wonderful to know that God is more interested in people than planets; more interested in souls than in stars; more interested in us than the universe!

David uses two words here for “man.” The first word is “enosh.” This title for man literally means “mortal” and speaks of the length of man’s life.

The point here is that as insignificant as man is, (dust) God still cares about us; and not only does he care about mankind in general, but He cares about each of us as individuals!

The word visit means “care.”

It’s amazing to think that the creator of the heavens and the earth wants to have a personal relationship with us!

As Stuart Hamlin wrote:

“How big is God? How big and wide his vast domain?  
To try and tell, these lips can only start.  
He’s big enough to rule this mighty universe;  
Yet small enough, to live within my heart!”

B. The potential glory He has for us - v. 5-8

***Psalm 8:5-8***

*<sup>5</sup> For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. <sup>6</sup> Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: <sup>7</sup> All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; <sup>8</sup> The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*

David says that God made man “a little lower than the angels,” not “a little higher than the animals.”

Charles Darwin described man as “the most efficient animal ever to emerge on the earth.”

What a degrading view of man!

Man is not just an efficient; he was made by an act of God, and made in the image and likeness of God!

God’s purpose for man was that as he walked in

fellowship with and obedience with Him, he (man) would lead all of creation to honor and glorify its creator.

However, man chose instead to disobey and go his own way, plunging this world into sin and darkness.

That's why the Lord came.

The writer of Hebrews, speaking of our Savior's work of redemption, relates this passage to Him.

**Hebrews 2:6-10**

*<sup>6</sup> But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? <sup>7</sup> Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: <sup>8</sup> 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. <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 honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. <sup>10</sup> For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*



Jesus, the second person of Godhead, came down from the pinnacle of glory to be born in a Bethlehem barn.

He was “made flesh,” “made a little lower than the angels,” so that he might redeem mankind.

Illustration:

The queen of England was a teen when World War II broke out.

When she was old enough she asked her father, King George VI, to let her join the army and serve her country as others were doing.

Her father allowed her to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a private.

She had a superior officer who took pleasure in bossing her about.

He would order, “Private Windsor do this, Private Windsor do that!”

“Yes, sergeant! Yes, sir,” was all Elizabeth could say.

She was made a little lower than the noncommissioned officers for the sake of her service to her people.

But then, on February 6, 1952, she received word that her father was dead.

From that moment on she was Queen of England.

She was no longer “Private Windsor,” to be badgered by a small-minded noncommissioned officer.

She was “Her Royal Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.”

She had entered into the position for which she had been born, a position resigned temporarily for the call of duty.

Never again was she addressed as “Private Windsor,” but as “Your majesty.”

The Lord has assumed again His throne on high.

He sits enthroned in a battle-scarred body of flesh!

The Lord came to redeem us and to restore us so that God’s original purpose for us and the rest of creation might be fulfilled.

Close:

***Psalm 8:1***

*<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.*