

Psalm 8

8:1 To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 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.

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

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

Introduction notes:

1. “Gittith” (Ps. 8; 81; 84 bear this inscription) – meaning “the winepress” – a song of public worship for the harvest time. (Feast of the Tabernacles)
2. Ps. 1 & 9 form an “inclusio.” (Envelop)
3. David reflects on the excellence of the LORD – starting with His name – which is representative of who God is and what He has done.
4. David starts to reflect on Creation, then Man, ultimately contemplating man’s fall and redemption. The New Testament reveals to us David’s theological perspective.

Outline:

- I. The Excellency of the LORD (vv.1 & 9)
- II. The Humiliation of Man (vv.2-5)
- III. The Exaltation of Man (vv.6-8)
- IV. The Excellency of the LORD (vv.1 & 9)

Observations:

1. Gittith is connected to Gath (“winepresses”) – since David was victorious over the inhabitants of Gath (1 Sam. 17:4; 21:10; 1 Chr. 18:1) the term Gittith might be symbolic of the Messiah’s final victory.
2. This is a Messianic Psalm and the N.T. uses this as such:
 - a) Matt. 21:16
 - b) 1 Cor. 15:27
 - c) Heb. 2:5-9
3. Two significant names of God:
 - a) LORD (Jehovah) – Exo. 3:14 (cf. Gen. 2:4 – used 5521 times in the KJB) – the Eternally Existing One (Ever Being; Ever Present – “I Am”) & Covenant-Keeping God.
 - b) Lord (Adonai) – Gen. 15:2 – Master.
4. The excellency of God’s name demonstrates:
 - a) His sovereignty over nature and Creation (Ps. 93:4; 113:4)
 - b) His sovereignty over man’s armies (Exo. 15:6)
 - c) His sovereignty as a the Law-Giver (Isa. 42:21)
 - d) His glorious name (Deut. 12:5, 11, 14) culminates in the redemptive and exclusive name of The Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9).
5. The Fall of man is recognized:
 - a) God has enemies.
 - b) The mouth of “babes and sucklings” glorify God whom His enemies ignore. (When Jesus cited this verse, he was saying that the chief priests and scribes failed to acknowledge Him as Jehovah at the Triumphal Entry – Matt. 21:14-17).
6. The night sky declares the glory of God. (Isa. 40:26; Ps. 19:1; 97:6) – General Revelation.
7. Man and Son of Man is paralleled. Man is central in God’s plan of Creation. But man sinned (in Adam, Rom. 3) which is why Christ, the second Adam, the second Moses, the second David became a man to redeem lost and sinful man (Heb. 2:7).
8. Man’s dominion was given to him in Gen. 1:28.

Lesson: The Lord Jesus is the center of focus of all of God’s creation – animals, angels, and Adam’s race (mankind).