

Sep. 3, 2017

# How Majestic Is Your Name!

BI: The meaning of man is derived from the majesty of God.

LTS: Psa. 33

Before we look at the Scriptures this morning I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the past three weeks off to study, read, and pray apart from the pressure of the weekly sermon. It has been a time of rich spiritual refreshment and productive study and I am grateful for having been given such a gift. At the same time, I know you have been well fed spiritually. Keith's messages from the book of Joshua brought us a rich spiritual feast every week and we have all been blessed by His ministry to the word.

Prayer:

Please turn in your Bible with me to Psalm 8. Psalm eight has always been a favorite among God's people because there is nothing that brings more joy to the child of God than offering true worship over the glory of God. And few things inspire such worship as the starry hosts of heaven on a clear night. Humans were created to worship!

We saw clear evidence of this two weeks ago when the full solar eclipse took place over our nation. People flocked from all over the US and around the world to put themselves in the "path of totality" for no other reason than to witness that stunning spectacle of the moon slipping into perfect position, totally blocking the sun. In some places thousands upon thousands gathered in stadiums to see it. Christians and unbelievers, cultists and atheists, rich and poor, people from every race all gathered in peace to watch this rare phenomenon take place before their eyes. And what struck me most as I watched on-line is that as soon as the sun began to go dark all the peoples erupted in a spontaneous roar of awe, wonder, and delight! It was absolutely magnificent to watch and hear!

And you know what? That's what eclipses are for. They don't appear by accident, and they don't happen for NO reason. They occur on a regular, predictable basis to humble us, to show us how small we are. To demonstrate that there are glorious and terrible things happening in the cosmos that we could never hope to effect or control! As Psalm 19 reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Everyone on the planet sees sufficient evidence that there is a God. "His invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. Therefore, they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

In preparation for the preaching of the word this morning, let's stand together and read Psalm 8

One night King David was laying on the ground looking up into a cloudless sky and here is

what went through his mind.

Read Psalm 8

Psalm 8 is all about the glory of God. We know that because David begins and ends the Psalm with the same words: “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” So, whatever else David speaks of here, we know that his chief concern is to magnify - in his own heart and in ours - the glory and majesty of God. And yet, most of this psalm is about man. In fact, it is one of the foundational texts for establishing a biblical anthropology (i.e. the study of man). The starting point for the study of man must always be the study of God. We will never know ourselves until we know God.

There are three themes I want us to consider from this text.

I. The Glory of God in Creation

II. The Glory of God in Man

III. The Glory of God in Christ.

## **I. The Glory of God in the Creation**

Supporting Idea: In verse 1, David exalts in the majestic NAME of God and all people live in relation to Him.

1. Notice David’s words of spontaneous exaltation. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name!” In the Heb. It actually reads, “O Yahweh, our Adonai!”

- A. “Yahweh” reveals God as the Great “I Am.” He is the ultimate absolute of the universe, the first cause, the source of all that exists. He is without beginning or end. Eternity comes from Him. He is the ultimate starting point. He is Yahweh.
- B. “Adonai” speaks of God in relation to man. He is our Lord, our King, our governor. He sits enthroned over everything in heaven and earth and rules over all powers and authorities. By that NAME the Holy Spirit teaches us that there is a God and we are responsible to Him. He is “Adonai.”
- C. David declare that the Lord’s “name” is “Majestic.” To speak of God’s “name” is to speak of all that God is in his essential being. In Psalm 20 David prays, “May the NAME of the God of Jacob protect you!” That is, may you find refuge in all that God is – all of his wisdom, and might, and power, and mercy, and sovereignty, holiness, and strength (And that’s just few of His infinite attributes). His name references all that He is.
- D. Then, to speak of God’s name is Majestic is to exalt Him all the more. The Oxford Dictionary says that “Majesty is a term typically used of kings.” In God’s case (Heb. 8:1) “He sits on the throne of majesty in the heavens!”

2. So as David lays there in the stillness of the night, gazing into the sky, he is overwhelmed by

the glory of God who created everything he sees in the heavens and everything he sees on earth. First, He says (1) "... how majestic is your name in all the earth." And then follows that with, "You have set your glory above the heavens." In other words, "O Lord! Everywhere I look I see your glory!" IN the daytime when I look at the earth, I see your majesty there. In the watches of the night when I gaze into the cosmos, I see your supremacy there.

3. My friends, for those who have eyes to see, the glory of God is everywhere. IN the eclipse. In the Hurricane and massive flood in Houston. In the sunrise and sunset, in the lightening and the hail, the mountains and valleys, the droughts, the tsunamis. Sometimes his glory on the earth delights us. Sometimes it frightens us. The God who "In the beginning created the heavens and the earth," is glorified in the heavens and the earth. All of it reveals something magnificent about His majesty.

3. So what do we learn from verse one? We learn that we are not alone in this world. There is a God. Earth and heaven declare the majesty and glory of His name. He is the King of all that exists, and we are responsible to Him.

4. David then (3) shifts his thinking from the majestic glory of God in the heavens and the earth to the unexpected glory of God in man.

## **II. The Glory of God in Man**

Supporting Idea: Verses 3-4, tell us that in light of God's majesty on display in the moon and the stars, David is humbled by God's personal concern for man.

Read v. 3-4

1. David understood intuitively that as Awesome and seemingly Infinite the cosmos may be, it is as nothing compared to God. "Setting in place" the universe with its billions of galaxies and stars, its complex systems and artistry (3) was merely "the work of His fingers." It was "finger work." It was child's play. It took Zero effort on God's part. Hence, in Psalm 113 we read, "Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who humbles himself to behold the things that are in heaven..."

2. As David ponders all of this, a humbling realization floods over him. So he asks, "What is man that you are mindful of Him; and the son of man that you care for him." In other words, Lord, with all that's going on in heaven, and all the magnificent dynamics of creation here are earth, why do you even THINK of me?

3. Before we go on, do you understand that God thinks about You? Have you ever considered the fact that the Creator and King of the universe is fully aware of who you are?

- He knows your name.
- He knows where you live,
- He knows who you married (or dream of marrying),
- where you work,

- Your goals, ambition, and temptations.
- He knows everything about you.

4. In Ps. 139, we find David once again pondering these things and he says to God,

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar; you search my path and my lying down and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord (Yahweh), you know it altogether...

5. Understanding yourself properly and living as you were designed to live begins with realizing that every moment of your life is lived in relation to God.

6. This was humbling to David.

A. And this is the kind of response that all people should have when we consider the glory of God in creation. It should humble us.

B. David has things in their proper order. He is not thinking of himself as an autonomous creature living on his own apart from God, but rather as a creature who lives in the inescapable presence of God.

1) Consider how different our lives would be if we truly grasped this reality.

2) How cautious we would be about our souls,

3) How sensitive about temptation

4) How humbled by our sin

5) How thankful for Christ and His atoning and reconciling sacrifice on our behalf.

6) Every moment of every day, we live in relation to God.

7. David asks, "What is man, O Lord, that you think of Him?" Answer: Not very much! In the scheme of things the best of men are like a speck of dust in the universe and his time here is short. Your life is a vapor; here for a little while than then gone. And yet, God thinks about you. More than that, God cares (4) about you.

A. God is not merely watching us from a distance, He is actively concerned with and involved in our lives"

B. And He is determined to be glorified in us.

Read v. 2

8. His first mention of man is not to men of stature and strength; not soldiers and kings, but to children. Infants. This can be a confusing verse. It talks about babies who have strength and enemies who are silenced by them.

9. Do you realize how incomprehensibly complex a human baby is? One must stoop to a level of intellectual idiocy and abject foolishness to conclude that such complexity, symmetry,

intelligence, and beauty evolved from nothing or that life came from non-life. Every baby born into the world is a living, breathing bundle of “glory,” a living model majesty.

10. Verse 5 David says, “You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings.” Some translations read, “You have made him a little lower than the angels.” Clearly then, I have it on good authority that its OK to refer to our grandbabies as “little angels!” (or at least very close to angelic).

11. Every human baby (Psa. 139) was personally “knit together in his mother’s womb” by the hand of God for the glory of God. No matter whose baby it is, or what nationality, or skin color, and social status. Every human baby declares the majesty of God.

Consider the implications of these truths on our cultural discussion about issues like abortion and racism. I’m afraid we don’t have time to go there, except to say that if our culture held to a biblical anthropology, there would be no abortions and the conflict in Charleston would never had happened! Perhaps we can discuss those issues another day.

12. But back to our Text, consider this, when God said to Adam and Eve “be fruitful and multiply,” it wasn’t merely a command and it wasn’t merely an invitation. It seems to me more like a creative declaration of divine fiat in the manner of “Let there be light.” No matter what the enemies of God do, the glory of God in human babies continue to pour into the world at an astounding rate.

A. Statistics tell us that in the world today 255 babies are born every minute,

B. That works out to be 4.3 births every second.

C. So on this very Lord’s Day 350,000 babies will be born into the world! And everyone one of them declares the majesty of God’s glory.

13. And the most vivid picture of this reality is set on display for the world to see every Christmas when we recall one particular baby who was born in a cattle stall and laid in a manger, whose glory was seen by shepherds and sung by angels.

14. God has always chosen the weak things of the world to shame the strong. And God does that with human babies.

15. Helpless babies, however, grow up to be strong men and women. The main question of this psalm is (v. 4) “What is man.” More significantly, what is man in the sight of God. Answer: “He is that part of creation through whom God receives the most glory.”

A. Yes, God’s majesty is evident in the Sun, Moon, and stars.

B. Yes, his glory is on display in the Himalayan Mountains, the Grand Canyon, and the undiscovered creatures in the secret depths of Mariana Trench.

C. But more than anything, God is glorified in man.

16. You will remember in the creation account of Gen. 1, that the only part of creation stamped with the very image of God is man. And every piece of the created order was declared by God to be “good.” But it was regarding man alone that God declared, “It is VERY good.”

Read v. 5-8

17. The truth we dare not miss here is that man was created under God but over the animals. God made him “a little lower than heavenly beings (or “God”), and gave him dominion over the rest of creation.

- A. Man did not evolve from monkeys. The text says (5) You made him.” So, man was made by God (just as we read in Gen. 1&2) Furthermore, God gave Man dominion over the creation. Not just the animals, but all creation (including the Moon and Mars, and wherever else man may visit before the return of the Lord.

18. He is the only part of creation that bears the image of God and wields the authority of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Humans magnify the majesty of God passively and actively. Passively speaking, just being human without regard to ability or disability declares the glory of God. We are the work of His hands, and that in itself is enough. Actively speaking, however, we get to magnify the majesty of God in our work. Just as Adam was given the privilege of keeping the garden, so every able-bodied man or woman is given the privilege of working for the glory of God and the good of other people.

- A. When a man provides for his family, he declares God’s glory.
- B. When he loves his wife...
- C. When he disciplines his children...
- D. When he works with integrity at his job...
- E. When a woman keep house or changes diapers.
- F. When she loves her children and points them to Christ...
- G. When she plays her instrument...
- H. When she works at her job with integrity...
- I. The ways we declare the glory of God with our lives is nearly limitless in this world.

18. You see, man is not simply an advanced animal species on the evolutionary food chain. He is a creation of God who has been crowned with glory and honor above other created beings and has been given dominion over the works of God’s hands.

You see, beloved, understanding who we are and why we are here begins with believing what God has said about us.

- We were created by God
- We live in relation to God
- We exist for the glory of God

The glory of Man is that we are designed to glorify God.

19. So we have seen the glory of God in creation and, the glory of God in man. Finally.

### III. The Glory of God in Christ:

1. You may say, “I don’t see Christ in this passage.” And you are right. But Psalm 8 most definitely points to Christ.
2. The reality is that sinful men can never fully live up to the purpose for which we were created. We live in a Genesis 3 world where men and women fall short of the glory of God. But there is one human being who lived in this world and fulfilled man’s purpose perfectly.
3. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of what God intended man to be.
  - As an infant, God silenced the mouth of Herod by his birth, thus he “stilled the enemy and the avenger” (Psa. 8:2).
  - Turn with me to Matt. 21:16. Here Jesus is coming triumphally into the temple and the people are shouting “Hosanna! To the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Matthew 21:15–16

But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant,<sup>16</sup> and they said to him, “Do you hear what these [children] are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, “ ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise’?”

4. So in this passage the very thing that David spoke of in Psalm 8 is being fulfilled. By the weakness of children, the enemy (Chief Priests and scribes) is silenced and defeated. But there is more here.
5. You see, when Jesus used Psalm 8 to demonstrate that prophesy was being fulfilled in him, we should remember that Psalm 8 was all about praise to God. But the children at Jesus’ triumphal entry were saying “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They were directing their praise to Jesus. Of course, Jesus knew that. The chief priests and scribes also knew that. So, it is absolutely breathtaking when Jesus says, “Let me explain what is happening here. Psalm 8, verse 2, is happening. God is being praised by these children. When they praise Me as the Messiah, the Son of David, they are praising God. Because that’s who I am. Before Abraham was, I am.”
6. There is one more text that we should read before we step away from this message.
  - Hebrews 2:5-9, (Turn there with me).

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.<sup>6</sup> It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?<sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,<sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting

everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

7. You see, my friend, I suspect you know all too well that your life falls short of the glory of God. Because of sin, you have never been able to live up to the reason you were brought into this world. And because of that, you deserve to be separated from God forever. But there is good news. Jesus did it for you. He lived the perfect life in your place. He is the perfect man. And he not only lived in perfect fulfillment of God's design for man, he also gave his life to reconcile you to God because of your sin. Do you see the goodness of God? Do you understand that God knows you; He cares for you; and though you have not trusted Him or honored Him; though you have disregarded and rejected him, yet, because of the love with which he loved you, he sent Jesus on your behalf to bear the punishment your sins deserve? Will you not now bow before Him with a broken heart and declare, "God be merciful to me, the sinner?" Will you not cast your soul upon the mercy of God and cling to all that God has promised to be for you in Jesus? Though your sin be as scarlet it will be washed whiter than snow. Believe Him. Trust Him, Run to Him.

Ask Him to receive you based on the merits of Christ (Holy God and perfect man) and you will be saved.

Prayer:

8. So you see, we learn much about the meaning of man from Psalm eight. We learn that

- The starting point for the study of man must be a knowledge of God.
- That man was created by God.
- That he lives in relation to God.
- That he lives for the glory of God
- And ultimately, that he is accountable to God.