

March 8, 2026

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Scriptures for further study:

Psalm 150:2-6

John 17:22

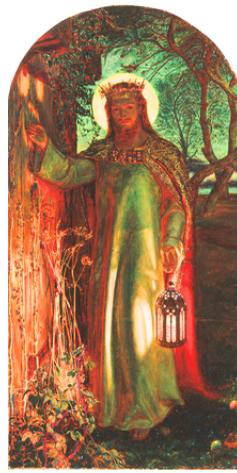
Galatians 4:7

“He is the fountain of all being, power, and perfection, the sovereign ruler, powerful protector, and bountiful benefactor of all creatures.”

-Matthew Henry

“God reveals His glory both in the immeasurable greatness of the cosmos and in the smallest and weakest of His creatures.”

-Herman Bavinck



Praise and Purpose Psalm 8

BIG IDEA: Because the God of glory has graciously established our dignity and worth, we respond to His grace in Jesus Christ with lives of exuberant praise and purposeful obedience.

Simply, the Gospel moves us to praise God and live for His purposes.

OUTLINE

1. A Declaration of Praise (Verses 1a, 9)
2. A Glorious God (Verses 1b-3)
3. A Profound Question (Verse 4)
4. A Derived Dignity and Purpose (Verses 5-8)

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What situations prompt us to express approval, honor, or offer positive feedback about someone’s work or character?
2. Refer to Psalm 8:1a, 9. If God’s name reveals who He truly is—His character, power, and goodness—how should knowing Him more deeply move my heart from simply learning about God to actually worshiping Him with joy and passion?
3. Refer to verse 1b-3. What does it teach us about God’s character that the same hands that set the moon and stars in place also knit together the smallest child—and how should that shape our praise?
4. Refer to verse 4. When you consider God’s vast glory and power, what does it stir in you to realize that He is personally mindful of you and cares for you?
5. David responds to God’s greatness with awe, not self-importance. What’s the difference between grounding your worth in God’s grace versus trying to prove your worth yourself?
6. Thinking about verses 5-8. Where am I trying to develop or defend my worth instead of receiving it as something God has already declared over me?

“The image of God consists not only in what humans are, but in the calling entrusted to them.”

-Herman Bavinck

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise, enabling the Lord's people to celebrate their privileged place in the created order, which speaks of the glorious Creator. Genesis 1-2 lies behind the words here, especially in presenting mankind as the pinnacle of the creation week, as the rulers over the animal world, and as the object of God's special attention. At the same time, the mention of "foes," "enemy," and "avenger" (Ps. 8:2), as well as the covenantal name "LORD" (vv. 1, 9), shows that readers cannot ignore Genesis 3 and God's plan for fallen mankind. Although the psalm is covenantal, and thus specifically for Israelite voices to sing, it nevertheless speaks of "man" in general terms, including all humanity. Israel's calling was to be the firstfruits of restored humanity; thus, the Israelite worshiper could embrace his dignity and seek to live worthily of it. This points the way to understanding how Heb. 2:6-8 uses Ps. 8:4-6: Jesus, as Davidic king, is the ideal Israelite, and thus the ideal human being, in this case by being crowned with glory and honor after his suffering on behalf of mankind.

-ESV Study Bible

Praise to Jesus – Praise the Lord! Our life and vocation flow from His kingship, are exercised under His authority, and are ultimately fulfilled in Christ. We are crowned not to rival the Creator, but to serve as His steward within creation. Praise Jesus for He restores human vocation through His humble obedience and victorious reign. Praise Him, we are united to Him, He has recovered our purpose not to be independent rulers, but joyful participants in God's redemptive design!

Repent through Jesus – Lord, I confess that I often act like someone trying to earn a crown, rather than someone who already received one from God. I confess to acting like an independent ruler instead of a joyful steward of what You have entrusted to me. Please forgive me, Lord, and lead me to repentance for chasing significance apart from You, forgetting that Your mindful love reshapes everything.

Consecration for Jesus –Because the God of glory has graciously established our dignity and worth, we respond to His grace in Jesus Christ with lives of exuberant praise and purposeful obedience.

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

These questions are written to aid parents in leading family devotions with their children.

1. What does it mean that God is majestic (verse 1 and 9)? (To be majestic is to have amazing beauty and dignity.)
2. What does David celebrate about God in this Psalm? (He is worshipping God as the Creator of all things.)
3. What do we learn about humans' place in God's creation? (We read in this Psalm that God made human beings as the pinnacle of His creation. With that, we have a God-given responsibility and leadership of God's creation.)
4. Sometime today or this week, go outside when it is dark to look at the stars. Ask your children how many stars they see. What does this tell us about God? (King David is reminding us of how big and powerful God is. He wants us to worship Him. Scientists estimate that there are 100-400 billion stars in our galaxy. They also estimate that there are about 2 trillion different galaxies. These numbers are staggering and should give us a heart of awe and wonder at God. It should also humble us. This has many implications for our lives, but a primary one is that we can have peace that God is more powerful than our troubles and worries.)
5. What is your favorite animal? How many different types of animals can you think of? (In verses 7-8, we read that God rules over all the animals and He calls us to steward His creation. This is meant to cause us to thank God and to look to God to calm us when we worry or are nervous.)
6. Take time today or this week to make a list of the things that you are worried about and remind each other that God is bigger than all things. How does this strengthen and encourage us?

Recommended Resource to study the Psalms with your children:

WonderFull: Ancient Psalms Ever New by Marty Machowski

Scriptures for further study:

Genesis 1:26-28

Hebrews 2:5-9

FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Genesis 1:36-28

Hebrews 2:6-9

Romans 8:18-25

Philippians 2:5-11

Colossians 1:15-20

1. Have you ever seen something in nature that has made you stop and say “wow”? How does that moment compare to what David does in vv. 1-3? Why does creation lead him to praise?

2. Verse 1 and verse 9 bookend the Psalm with praise. Why do you think he repeats the phrase: “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”? How does knowing God’s name (His character and power) change the way you talk to Him or about Him?

3. Read v. 4 again. David asks, “What is man that you are mindful of him...?” Have you ever wondered if you matter? How does this verse challenge the idea that you’re just one tiny life in a big universe? What is being communicated about how God views you?

4. What does it mean to be “crowned with glory and honor” (v. 5)? Where do you usually go looking for your worth? How is that different from receiving your worth as something that God gives?

5. According to vv. 6-8, humans are given responsibility to rule over creation. What does it mean to live as a “steward” of God’s creation and gifts? How might this affect how you live day-to-day – in school, sports, friendships, etc.?

6. Psalm 8 talks about the glory and dignity God gives to humanity—but Hebrews 2 says this psalm is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, who was “made lower than the angels” and is now “crowned with glory and honor.” How does knowing that Jesus—the true and better human—restores our purpose and worth through His life, death, and resurrection shape the way you live today?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Take a moment to reflect on the following quote by C. S. Lewis:

“Nature never taught me that there exists a God of glory and of infinite majesty. I had to learn that in other ways. But nature gave the word glory a meaning for me. I still do not know where else I could have found one.”

2. Someone has said that the worst moment for an atheist is when he looks out upon the beauty and grandeur of the universe and finds he has no one to thank.

Reflect on this observation

3. How does reflecting on the grandeur of creation help the Psalmist (and us) appreciate God’s care for us as humans? (vv.3-4)

4. How does reflecting on the grandeur of creation help the Psalmist (and us) appreciate the great responsibilities we have to steward God’s creation? (vv.6-8)

5. The theme and even the structure of this Psalm point to humans as having central importance and dignity among all parts of God’s creation.

Question: In what ways does our culture perhaps denigrate the importance of humans and our God-given dignity?

6. How does this psalm help guard against having a prideful and over-inflated view of ourselves, on the one hand? How does this psalm help guard against having too low a view of humanity, on the other hand?

The Blessed Life: A Study of the Psalms



"The Light of the World" (1851-1853) by William Holman Hunt

Psalms Introduction

The Book of Psalms is the sacred place where the living God meets His people in the most intimate and personal of ways. He invites them to know Him not merely as an idea, but as their refuge, portion, shepherd, and King. From the opening doorway of blessedness in Psalm 1 to the climactic Hallelujahs of Psalm 150, the Psalter reveals that the truly happy life is one rooted in the person and work of Almighty God, whose steadfast love holds His people through every season of the soul. As the Psalter moves from anguish to adoration, from darkness to dawn, it becomes a mirror of the Christian life itself. It teaches us to pray honestly, to hope stubbornly, and to sing faithfully, even when night seems long. In the deepest valleys, the Psalms give voice to the church's groan; on the highest heights, they train the church's doxology. And in every line, every cry, and every hallelujah, Christ Himself comes near, revealing the light of the world in the dark night of the soul and leading His people into the blessedness that only His grace can give.

– Pastor Bill

About the artwork and artist.

The Light of the World, 1851-1853, is an iconic allegorical painting by William Holman Hunt. The painting depicts Jesus Christ as a regal figure in flowing robes, wearing a crown of thorns, holding a glowing lantern, and preparing to knock on a weed-overgrown wooden door with no external handle. This illustrates Revelation 3:20 from the Bible: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." The artist William Holman Hunt is showing us that Jesus is the divine door to the living God who meets His people in the most intimate and personal ways. The closed, overgrown door → representing the human soul or "obstinately shut mind" that has long ignored spiritual calling. There is no handle on the outside → the door can only be opened from within, emphasizing free will and personal invitation to faith. The lantern → Christ as the light of the world (John 8:12), illuminating darkness and offering salvation. The work marked Hunt's deepening Christian faith (from earlier agnosticism) and became one of the most reproduced and devotional images of the Victorian era, inspiring oratorios, hymns, and widespread popular piety. It's often called a visual sermon on personal salvation.