

“Splendor & Significance”

Psalm 8

Central Idea: God is above all, but cares for His special creation

Background:

- Psalm of creation praise; written by David

I. Praise of God’s Majesty (1-2, 9)

- “O LORD, our Lord”
 - David speaks on behalf of all God’s people
 - “LORD” = *YHWH*, or Jehovah: The covenant God of Israel
 - “Lord” = *Adonai*: The sovereign, the ruler of all creation
- God’s name is a reference to His revealed character
- His majesty is glimpsed in creation
 - It is revealed in, and exceeds, the heavens
 - Even the heavens cannot contain the glory of God
- Mankind’s responsibility is to praise God
 - He entrusts His praise to even the weakest among us
 - In this His strength is established and made known
 - Jesus quotes this verse in Matthew 21:16
 - God will always receive the praise and glory He is due

II. Mankind’s Gracious Place Among God’s Creation (3-8)

- Three things God does for mankind:
- God thinks of and cares for us
 - David marvels at this fact
 - “the work of Your fingers” shows the care and skill of God
 - Also shows His size and power
 - “man” = *enosh*: carries the idea of being weak or frail

- Despite our relative insignificance God cares for us because He made us in His image

- God crowns us with glory and majesty
 - He has given us significance and honor
 - God gives to man the same attributes of His from verse 1
 - This connection shows we were made in God’s image
- God made us rulers of His creation
 - We are God’s representatives in creation
 - “A little lower than God” not “A little above the animals”
 - Mankind is to have dominion over creation, but this has not been fully realized due to sin
- Hebrews 2:6-9 applies this passage to Jesus
 - Jesus has fully and perfectly accomplished this
 - Jesus is the perfect ruler, everything will submit to him
 - One day believers will rule with Him

Application:

- God is worthy of our praise
- Our responsibility is to worship the creator, not the creation
- You are significant to God
 - God graciously knows and cares for each of us
 - This is seen through Jesus’ sacrifice for us

Discussion Questions:

- Where do you see God’s power and majesty displayed?
- How does this majesty inspire your worship of God?
- How does Psalm 8 help you understand your own significance?
- Why is it important to understand God’s order in creation?