

Psalm 8

Title: God Cares for us.

O LORD, our Lord,
 How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth,
 Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
 You have ordained strength,
 Because of Your enemies,
 That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
 The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him,
 And the son of man that You visit him?
⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
 And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
 You have put all *things* under his feet,
⁷ All sheep and oxen—
 Even the beasts of the field,
⁸ The birds of the air,
 And the fish of the sea
 That pass through the paths of the seas.
⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
 How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

Introduction**(Insert slide of space etc.)**

The first Russian astronaut who went into space came back and mockingly said **“I did not see any God in space. There is no God.”**

On the other hand, John Glenn, the American astronaut who is a Christian came back from his journey in space and reported how his **faith in God was strengthened.**

It all depends upon your mind-set. (state of mind)

You can enter space as an atheist with all your prejudices and find emptiness.

However, you can enter space as a Christian and find God’s handiwork everywhere.

David was a Shepherd at one time. He was used to looking at the stars at night.

He **looked to the skies at night with faith and devotion** and he saw **God clearly.**

In Psalm 8 we are taught by David **who God is,** and we see God’s **relationship with man.**

I will divide this Psalm into two main sections.

Firstly, in verses 1-3 we will learn what David teaches us about God.

Then in v. 4-9 we will discover how David sees our relationship with God.

1. Who is God? – Psalm 8: v. 1-3.

David identifies 5 things about God in the first three verses of this Psalm.

- a) **God is Lord** – v. 1. The word **“LORD”** translated in our English Bibles has all capital letters. There is a reason for that.

The word comes from the Hebrew word YHWH which means Yahweh or Jehovah.

The name in Hebrew means **“I am the self-existent one”**.

Mankind needs food, water, air, sleep, light, shelter and an endless supply of other things to exist, but the God of the Bible doesn’t need any of these things because **He exists by His own power.**

Exodus Chapter 3: v. 13-15. (N.K.J.)

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'

In the original Hebrew language, the phrase "**I am**" and the name "YAHWEH" are essentially the same. They both mean "**I am the self-existent one**".

Man has achieved much in scientific advancement, but he still needs to exist by the power of the God of the Bible.

God has defined the laws of nature and if man defies those laws then there are consequences. Today many people say that there is no God, but they can't exist without Him and His created world.

Colossians 1: v. 17. (N.K.J.)

¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

- b) **God is the great creator** – v. 3. – In v. 3 David was probably looking up into the night sky and observing the moon and the stars as he says these words.

There are two main views today.

There are those people who believe that the world just happened by chance. They call it the "Big Bang Theory" but so far nobody has ever been able to explain what it was that went "Bang".

The reason that no-one can answer that question is because if they admit that something went bang, then who created the thing that went bang?

When we reject a creator God, and follow man's ideas, we then follow the wisdom of this world, which will never lead us to the truth about who created this world.

When we accept the Lord as "**Our Lord**", we accept Him as the foundation of all things.

A careful observation of God's creation makes us amazed at His wisdom.

For example, the four legs of an elephant all bend forward in the same direction.

There is no other animal that is made like this. The elephant is unique in many ways.

(slide of an elephant bending his legs)

Because of an elephant's large body, it needs **four leverage points** so that it can **rise from the ground easily.**

When we observe the flowers that God has created, we notice that certain flowers bloom at certain specified times during the day.

A great botanist by the name of "**Linneus**" once said this;

"If I had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, I could tell the time of the day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed."

If we view the things that man has made, **we will always find defects.**

Man made things wear out, break down, they rust out and they become out of date for modern living very soon.

However, the things that God has made are unique and perfect in every way.

- c) **God is transcendent – 8: v. 1** - The word transcendent means **beyond or above the range of normal or physical human experience.**

When David tells us that God has set His glory above the heavens, he is telling us that the God of the Bible, lives and operates in a world that far exceeds our human comprehension.

God operates outside of time and outside of our human thinking.

God's kingdom is real but it operates in a different dimension to ours.

David realised this and it improved his respect for his creator.

We need to understand that **we will never understand the mind of God fully.**

However through reading His word, the Bible, we can get a more focused picture about our creator and His purpose for the dimension that we live in now.

- d) **God is powerful - 8: v. 2.** – David knew that God uses the most unlikely things to do the most unbelievable exploits.

God does not need human cleverness or ability to fulfill His purposes.

However, God does choose weak human instruments to work out His purposes.

God used a little shepherd boy with 5 smooth stones to kill a giant.

This young boy achieved what a whole army could not do!!

That little boy was the David who wrote this Psalm.

The story is told in 1 Samuel 17: v. 37-58.

1 Corinthians 1: v. 27.

²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

As Christians we will see more of the power of God, when we are at our weakest point, than at any other time.

The reason for this is that the God of the Bible must get the praise and glory for the things that He does, through human channels.

The Bible teaches us that God will not share His glory with any human being.

Isaiah 42: v. 8. (N.K.J.)

⁸ I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name;

And My glory I will not give to another,

Nor My praise to carved images.

- e) **God is victorious – 8: v. 2. -** The second half of verse two encourages us to believe the truth of Colossians 2: v. 15.

In the book of Colossians Paul is teaching the believers about the great things that have been achieved by Jesus's death on the cross.

In Chapter 2: v. 15 we are told that the devil and all his powers were disarmed by God when Jesus Christ died on the cross.

The victory that was obtained by God through Jesus, can be ours personally as we put our faith and trust in God.

James 1: v. 13-14. (N.K.J.)

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

James is clear in this verse, that as a believer we do not have to sin and we can't blame God for our sinful actions.

As believers we have the choice not to sin and the power of God to help us not to sin.

What we sometimes lack is the motivation and the full understanding that God has something

better for us than this sinful action.

Getting the victory over the power of sin in our lives, helps us to enjoy God's best for our life in what he has designed for us.

Although David failed a few times in his personal life, what he didn't fail to do was to recognise that God could make him victorious, if he trusted in Him.

When we come to the point in our lives when we say "I can't do it", we must recognise and believe that **God can do it** and trust Him to **help us to lead a victorious Christian life.**

2. God in relationship to mankind – 8: v. 4-9.

In v. 4-9 of Psalm 8 we can recognise three things about God's relationship to mankind.

- a) **God cares for mankind – 8: v. 4.** - David contrasts the work of creation with the fact that God even cares for mankind.

Compared to creation and all the amazing things that God has created, David feels that man is very insignificant.

David says that not only does God care for mankind but He also sets His affection upon mankind.

In the second half of verse 4 we have a **reference to the gospel message.**

God's care for mankind is at its greatest when we consider the visit by the son of man.

This is a reference about **Jesus Christ**, who left the glory of Heaven to visit this world.

In spite of man's sin and rebellion, God entered the world of men.

God became a man in the form of Jesus Christ.

He died on a cross, willingly giving up His life to save mankind.

It was the only way that God could buy back his created mankind, without compromising His Holiness.

God said to Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed his one command, then death would be the consequence for their actions.

God kept his promise, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and this is why **death is part of our world.**

However, God loves his created people so much that through Jesus He can provide forgiveness of sin, and after our physical death, He will provide a better place to live, with a new body that does not wear out.

Also there will be no sin and no sickness and suffering in this new place that God has prepared for those who love Him.

We can never say that God doesn't care about mankind.

Just turn to Jesus and see how much God loves you.

- b) **God created man with glory and honour** – 8: v. 5 - Mankind is unique amongst God's creatures. We were made a little lower than the "Angels".

Genesis Chapter 1: v. 26-27. (N.K.J.)

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

About 100 years ago lots of people believed that the emperor of Japan was a descendent of the "Sun God".

They believed that he was at least half a god.

It is clear from history, especially after the second world war, that the emperor of Japan is not a god.

What we do know from the Bible is that being created in the image of God, does **NOT** make us a god.

Hosea Chapter 11: v. 9. (N.K.J.)

⁹I will not execute the fierceness of My anger;

I will not again destroy Ephraim.

For I *am* God, and not man,

The Holy One in your midst;

And I will not come with terror.

None of us have the attributes of the God of the Bible.

We are not All knowing, All- powerful and Everywhere present at one time.

Man is like a mirror which reflects the image of the object but it is not the object itself.

When you look at man, you may however see many things that resemble God.

Because God is a person, He has created us as beings. We are persons, or people in our own individual situation.

We have **personalities** and **characteristics** that God can relate to as a friend.

God gave man part of His eternal nature. God created us with a spirit that would exist forever.

God created us for an eternal friendship.

God did not create us like a doll or a toy for a temporary relationship.

The Bible tells us that God planted "**eternity**" in the human heart.

Ecclesiastes 3: v. 11

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

God created man with the capacity to create. God gave a little speck of his intellect to mankind. Our brain is a very complex computer that has the ability to investigate and understand things well.

Man can relate to God as an **intelligent, thinking, being.**

God has feelings, so He created man with emotions.

God wanted mankind to be able to experience kindness.

God also wanted mankind to have the ability to show kindness and appreciation.

The ability to feel emotion is a very important aspect of being a person.

Without feelings, our response to others would be like that of a robot, cold hearted and calculated, unable to experience true feelings.

God has created man with a "will".

This means the ability to make decisions.

It is the ability to choose what is right and what is wrong.

When we have a choice we can freely choose that which we would like.

God did not create us like a machine. We have a free will to love God or not to love God.

To be created in the image of God, is to be created with some of the characteristics that God has so that we can relate to Him in friendship.

This week I was listening briefly to a U.K. radio station called "Up all night".

Because of the time difference between the U.K. and America, they often interview people in the U.S.

On Monday the British interviewer spoke to a couple from the U.S. who were kidnapped one year ago about one hour drive from Mexico City.

One of the gang was attempting to rape the woman for the third time. She had had enough. She cried to God for His help and God helped her and her husband.

A miracle happened and they both escaped. The woman was not raped.

It was a very moving interview and you could definitely discern God's help for this couple.

God reached down at their point of need in a personal way and now they are able to tell their story.

c) **God crowned man with glory and honour – 8: v. 5-8.**

Because God cared for man, He not only created him in His own image, He also crowned him above all His creatures.

What does this crowning and honour involve?

The Psalmist suggests that this involves being **a care-taker of God's creation.**

Mankind has been given the responsibility of taking care of God's creation.

Mankind is not doing very well to take care of God's created animals.

During a period of 3 years from 2008 to 2011, about **100,000 African Elephants** were killed just to obtain ivory from their tusks to satisfy the demands of man.

China are the main customers in the purchase of ivory.

If this continues elephants in the wild could become extinct.

One million sea birds, and 100,000 sea creatures are killed each year because man does not dispose of his plastic in a way that will not endanger these animals.

I have only highlighted two issues but there many other situations where mankind has failed in its job at care-taking our world and God's created creatures.

Q. How and why did this happen?

The answer to the elephant problem was because of the lust and greed of mankind for ivory and its products.

The sinful nature craved for something and it ignored God's command to care-take his created Elephants.

The plastic problem is mainly financial.

It is free to dump plastic in the sea but it costs money to re-cycle plastic or dispose of it in a responsible way.

Mankind has put money before caring for God's sea birds and sea creatures.

The world is waking up to the problem of destroying God's created world, but it is not addressing the core issue of **why these things have happened.**

The core issue is that since Adam and Eve disobeyed God's one rule not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **everybody is born into this world with a sinful nature.**

This sinful nature is to **disobey God's rules and responsibilities for life.**

Sin is going your own way, ignoring the God of the Bible, and trying to make sense of life without God.

It will always result is trying to appease the cravings and desires of the sinful nature.

The plastic problem might be solved by new laws and the banning of plastic.

The elephants might be saved from extinction in Africa.

But the one thing that **we can't solve is the problem of the human heart.**

God is the only person who can solve that problem.

He has done this by sending His Son Jesus Christ into this world.

The Holy Spirit of God is the only person who can give you a new heart.

This is a heart that **desires to obey God and be fulfilled in Him,** for all eternity.

If you want God to change your heart for all eternity, then you need Jesus.

You need Jesus, living in your heart by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

If this is your desire today, don't leave this building without praying with somebody about this.

Amen.