Psalm 8

This is a Psalm that is telling, trumpeting the Excellencies of God. Oh, how we need that so desperately in a day when the world discounts God as irrelevant, to the church steeped in idolatry and is treating God as some cosmic Santa Claus waiting to grant our every wish, to Him wringing His hands in frustration unable to run the affairs of our lives.

**This Psalm is about God……….It’s His Name; It’s His Heavens; It’s His Fingers**

**Overview of Our Psalm:**

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!**

If you haven’t been through a Psalm with me, I would want to point out the first and last verse……Almost without exception the Psalms give us a parenthesis that tells us the purpose of the Psalm, for every thought within that parenthesis is building upon that theme.

For us to more fully appreciate the Psalms we need to understand Hebrew Poetry, for it doesn’t rhyme like ours do, but they work by repeating the same idea or thought over and over again, but in a different way.

**This Psalm is a Psalm of Great Contrasts……..**

A God of the universe the stars and heavens contrasted with lowly man.

A God who rules over the universe and man who rules over animals,

A God who gives the most strength to children and uses them to confound His powerful enemies.

**Contrasts:**

1. Lord Vs1 Vs Man Vs4
2. God’s Glory Vs1 Vs Man’s Glory Vs5
3. God’s Fingers Vs3 Vs Man’s Feet Vs6
4. God’s Dominion Vs1 Vs Man’s Dominion Vs6
5. God’s Excellent Name Vs1 Vs Man’s Diminutive Name Vs4/5
6. God’s Heavens Vs1 Vs Man’s Earth Vs6
7. God’s Moon/Stars Vs3 Vs Man’s Sheep/Oxen Vs6-8
8. Power of Heavens Vs3 Vs Power of Children Vs2
9. God Ordained Heavens Vs3 Vs God Ordained Children Vs2
10. God Mindful of Man Vs4 Vs Man Mindful of Animals Vs7-8
Our Psalm Tells Us Why His Name is Excellent:

‘You Have’
1. Set Glory Above the Heavens Vs1
2. Given Power to Children Vs2
3. Silenced the Enemy Vs2
4. Worked With His Fingers Vs3
5. Ordained the Elements of the Universe Vs3
6. Been Mindful of Man Vs4
7. Visited Man Vs4
8. Made Man Vs5
9. Crowned Man With Glory/Honor Vs5
10. Given Man Dominion Vs6
11. Given Every Animal Under Man’s Authority Vs6

1 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

[O Lord] It’s about His name this word for Lord is Jehovah the name that He uses to identify Himself with His people.
Jehovah our provider, our salvation, our banner, our righteousness, our shepherd, our healer, our ever present one….
[Our Lord] The word used here means master, lord, ruler, owner and is applied to God as being the ruler or governor of the universe.
This Psalm gives us great insight and understanding concerning man
But notice in order to understand man, we must first begin with God.
We see the results around us of man’s attempts of understanding man.
It always results in the devaluation of man, it affords him to opportunity to have children become human mind sweepers, throwing men away as ‘martyrs’, and for the post modern intellectual and forward thinker, it allows them to commit abortions and euthanasia.
As we see in this Psalm as great and as powerful as God is, he raises man up and places within him the capacity for greater things, and gives him authority over things that God has created and therefore giving him greater worth.

It’s that we recognize the there is something more, its what we don’t see that makes us special; it’s our ability to comprehend more than the beast of the field.

To reach beyond our grasp............

The proof of my royalty is my unsatisfied soul. The promise of my rest is my unrest. My claim to Thee is my longing for thee. I could not long for Thee if you were not in me; my want is the shadow of your sunshine. I am the only creature on earth that is not content with its environment. The bird carols all the day, and asks not larger wing. The fish swims upon the wave, and desires no other. The cattle browse in the meadow, and find the meadow ample room. ---George Matheson---

In vain the heavens sparkle if there be no sense of sight; in vain the luster lingers if there be no sense of beauty; in vain the worlds are woven if there be no sense of home. Not light but love, not space but spirit is the glory of the Father. All the outgoings of the morning do not equal thy morning prayer. ---George Matheson---
How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

[Excellent] Being of great virtue or worth; eminent
In other words, let it be exalted in the highest degree, and to the highest place, even above the heavens on which we can observe.

The heavens are there to point us to Him, that’s why He is above them.

He wants us to seek him, ask him, to knock at the doors of heaven.

Amos 5:8
Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his name:

KJV
It’s supposed to create a deep need in us, however in man’s rebellion the shadow became the substance.

Rom 1:18-25
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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.

[Babes] The word used here, means a boy or child. It is applied to a boy playing in the streets, and as small as a nursing infant.

Our passage here is quoted by the Christ, and interestingly enough gives us an interpretation of the passage…………..

Matt 21:14-16
Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant 16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

Matt 11:25-27
At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 

...good in Your sight The Words of Jonas……………..
You Have Ordained Strength] The word means to found, to lay the foundation of, as of a building. Then it means to establish, appoint, ordain, constitute, etc. The meaning and idea here, and what is meant here by strength is this praise done by children is the foundation by which God is using to overcome the enemy and those who come against God and His authority over them.

Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

[The Avenger] One who was endeavoring to take revenge, or who was acting as if determined to avenge some imaginary or real wrong.

Satan is called the accuser of the brethren, Remember Job……

God puts to silence the raging of the enemy, the onslaught of the waves of accusation, the pounding of past failures, through the simplicity of the child like faith.

We are not to fight fire with fire, but we are simply to trust and obey.

James 4:7
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:6-11
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God using the weak things of this world to confound the wise…..
1 Cor 1:27-30
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; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. Remember David and Goliath…….. Feeding of the 5 Thousand

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
[When I Consider Your Heavens] Remember the reason for them……

The Closest............ Approx. 2.5 million light years away
An enormous disk of stars surrounds the Andromeda Galaxy's bright disk. The newfound stellar disk spans at least 260,000 light-years, and emits nearly 10 percent of the galaxy's total light.

The Further Most........
Hubble’s detection of stars in the spiral galaxy M100, a member of the Virgo cluster, establishes the distance to the cluster as 56 million light-years (within +/- 6 million light-years). M100 is now the most distant galaxy

[The Work of Your Fingers] Isaiah...........
[Which You Have Ordained] Prepared, fitted up, constituted, appointed.

He had fixed them in their proper places, and they now silently show forth His glory.
4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?

[Mindful] When man is not mindful even of himself, when he can inflict such misery upon himself or others, or stand by and not lift a finger to aid another’s suffering, God does………..

God is Mindful of Us………..
Ps 139:1-3 / 17-18
O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

[Visit Him] A visit to give favor and bestow honor See Vs5-6.

How did Christ Visit us? Turn To: Heb 2:10-28 John 13
Christ Bound Himself to Us………..

For He was:
Bound by a diaper,
Bound to His parents,
Bound to labor for 20 yrs,
Bound to the ministry given to Him by His Father,
Bound by the restrictions of this flesh,
Bound to go to Jerusalem,
Bound when arrested,
Bound to a post when scourged,
Bound with nails to His cross,
Bound in His death………..
Never to be bound again………………

May we follow His example and be bound to our Savior,
My heart’s ambition is to descend; my love’s aspiration is to go down. I should feel more regal with garments soiled for thee than in robes whose selfishness has kept them from stain.

---George Matheson---

Cords and bands—these suggest a state of limitation. A cord is something which confines, imprisons. Is it not strange that God should draw man by the thing which limits him!

Above all, there is a band of love round me. This is the most limiting of all the cords. It makes me feel that I am literally tied to my brother—that I am a part of his body, and cannot get away. Men speak of love as the Spirit’s wing. Yet truly it is rather the Spirit’s cord. It keeps me chained to you. It refuses to let me soar without you. It bids me lift your weight, your pain. It holds me to the ground where you are lying. It compels me to bear your cross.

---George Matheson---
5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

The purpose here is to show the honor given to man, though so insignificant as compared with the heavens over which God presides, yet he had given him some rank and some honor. And of course Phil 2 tells us of wonderful story of Christ humbling Himself for us……..

6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Gen 1:26-28 It does not mean that God made or created him just for that purpose, for we know that if Adam had obeyed, a greater intimacy would have followed and new and greater things would have opened up to man.

Ultimately we will be given greater authority in heaven, with greater responsibilities as we rule and reign with Christ…….

[Over the Works of Your Hands] This dominion extends no further.

For we have no power to create………… this resides only with God and we see men attempting to create life from a tube and clone animals, they are just using material already given to them. Only God can make something out of nothing.

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.

Nothing more clearly reflects this than the control we exercise over flocks and herds-making wild animals domesticated for us to use, and make them obedient to our will, they become our servants.

9 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Christ the Maker of All Things…

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Christ came as that little baby that would defeat the avenger of our souls,

God would use a Star to guide the Magi, and come to Shepherds tending their sheep, they having dominion and rule over them and the Angels above man, would point to the Christ who rules over all.

Christ would use a donkey to ride into Jerusalem in His triumphant entry and have the little children to cry out His praises………..Oh, How We Need to Look-up………..Heaven to Come……..

Turn To: Rev 21:1-7 Rev 22:1-6

Jesus would tell us that we must become as little children and from this Psalm we begin to understand why……….How is that we would defeat the enemy of our souls, how is that we could answer the questions of why bad things happen to good people, why it seems that the wicked prosper, or why it seems that God is asleep and unaware or appears uncaring in my time of need………..It is the simplicity of the child in us that will prevail, the simplicity of Faith, Hope and Love, as God pours in…..

Grace, Mercy and Peace into our lives…….