

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 8

Psalm 8

INTRODUCTION: Here is a psalm of humility, a psalm of adoration. It was no doubt written as David beheld the sky and the heavens at night. He began to feel how good God is and how simple he is. God became bigger; David became smaller. David beheld the stars. So much in the Bible is said about the stars. Daniel 12:3 reminds us, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” It was a star that hovered over the manger of Bethlehem. Job tells us that in creation’s dawn the morning stars sang together. In Genesis 1:16-18 we are reminded that God made the sun and moon, and “he made the stars also.” Revelation 22:16 reminds us of “the bright and morning star.” It must be that the great men of the Bible loved to be alone at night under the stars, realizing God’s omnipotence, worshipping His majesty and walking with Him. Picture David out at night viewing God’s handiwork as you study Psalm 8.

- I. DAVID TELLS US OF THE GREATNESS OF GOD. In Psalm 8:1, notice especially the words, “who hast set thy glory above the heavens.” In this verse God is likened to a great actor. He is about to perform; the curtain is pulled and the world is His stage. He begins His performance only to find that the stage is not big enough. He builds His platform in the heavens; then He begins the performance again. Again He finds that the platform is not big enough, and so He has to stretch His platform above the heavens. God’s act, God’s performance, is so great that it must be carried on above the heavens. How mighty is our God!

- II. DAVID REMINDS US THAT THIS GREAT GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT EVERY MINUTE DETAIL. See Psalm 8:2. The same great God Who had to have his platform stretched above the heavens in verse 1 hears the cry of the suckling child in verse 2. He even tells the suckling child what to say. What a blessed truth! God is a great, omnipotent, mighty God, but He is also concerned about the least of us.

Notice the things in the Bible that take the attention of God. We are reminded that not a sparrow falls from the sky but that the Father takes notice. We are reminded that He feeds the ravens. (The raven was not a clean bird acceptable for sacrifice; it was an unclean bird. God is concerned about even the unclean bird.) He clothes the lilies of the field. He numbers the hairs on the head of each person. Nothing escapes His attention. No one escapes His love.

- III. DAVID REMINDS US OF ALL THAT GOD HAS DONE. Notice Psalm 8:3. The worlds were made by Him. The heavens were made by Him. David looks at the stars and realizes that God made them. He looks at the moon and realizes that this, too, was the object of God’s creation.

- IV. DAVID REMINDS US THAT GOD WANTS TO FELLOWSHIP WITH INSIGNIFICANT PEOPLE SUCH AS WE. The word “man” in the Hebrew implies “weak man, insignificant man, little man, puny man.” In other words, regardless of the weakness of man, God is mindful of him. God thinks of him. We are on His mind and near His heart. Ah, blessed thought! Just meditate on the truth of Psalm 8:4.

Not only is God mindful of us, but God visits us. This implies fellowship. It implies God’s delight in being with us, in talking with us, and having us talk with Him. David is consumed by the blessed fact that the great, holy, mighty, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God would want to visit with man, who is ever so weak.

(Teacher: Discuss with the class great people. Ask them if there is someone they have always wanted to meet and with whom they have wanted to talk. Discuss with them the thrill of it.) David is so excited here because he gets to talk to God and fellowship with Him.

- V. DAVID REMINDS US HOW GOD HAS EXALTED MAN. Read Psalm 8:5-8. Here we are reminded that man is the “apple of God’s eye.” Everything was made for man. God made fish for man. God made the birds for man. God made the beasts for man. God made the fowl of the air for man. God made plant life for man. God made trees for man. God made grass for man. God made flowers for man. God made the sun for man.

Observe a sunset. It is absolutely gorgeous! God said one day, “I think My people would love to see the beauty of a sunset.” That is what David is saying here. He is amazed at all the beautiful stars, the moon, the sun, and everything that God created for man.

- VI. DAVID ENDS WHERE HE STARTED. Notice the beginning of Psalm 8:1a, “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” Then in verse 9 he ends the chapter the same way, “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” Note the consistency here. Notice that David felt the same way at the end that he felt at the first.

Yes, to David, God was excellent; but more than that, notice the words, “our Lord.” Ah, the possessiveness here! This entire psalm is trying to tell us how great God is, how big God is, and yet how possessive we can be of God. Someone has written the song, “I Am His and He Is Mine.” This is true. The great, powerful, omnipotent God wants us and has us as His own; however, we also have Him as our own! Someone wrote the words, “Now I belong to Jesus; Jesus belongs to me; not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.” Here is the teaching of this great psalm. May we rejoice in the greatness of our God and the fact that He is our God, our very personal God!