

Psalm 8: GREAT HONOR TO THE LORD FOR HIS HONOR TO THE LOWLY!

¹ *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 [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!*

There is something very special about one who can personally design, engineer, and himself take the lead in constructing an impressive building; OR one who devises, plans, and himself leads the troops to a stunning military victory; or , as coach and player to a great athletic victory. If that individual, as strong and able as he is, is also a tenderhearted soul, with an a great love and compassion little children and babies, for the sick and the suffering, that is a very special person. Our text points us to “the LORD, our Lord,” seen in His magnificent creating of the universe and in His tenderhearted salvation/rescue of helpless sinners.

v.1 O, LORD—LORD, printed in all capital letters, signifies a special Hebrew name for God, and is translated “JEHOVAH.” The meaning of Jehovah is “HE IS”—the ever-existing Source of everything, and the One who is Reality and Truth. There is no deception or Lie in Him. He willingly acts, and is never forced to act. He keeps every Word and Promise. He hates every sin and action against Him, but in love sent His Son to rescue sinners. The great HE IS, the LORD.

Our Lord—another Hebrew word also translated “Lord,” printed with lower-case “-ord”—“master,” “lord.”

How Excellent—how first rate, top-notch.

Is Your Name—not just His “identifying label,” like George or Mike, but His name, His Reputation, His good name.

In All the Earth—everywhere!

Your glory is above the heavens--His greatness is more impressive than anything on earth or in the sky. In **v. 3, I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained!**—Impressive! He sets His glory “above” the heavens—not just “greater than,” but beyond—this created world and universe, outside-of all creation.

v. 2 Out of the mouth of babes--In His vast superiority He even honors the mouths little babies and nursing/suckling infants to establish His Kingdom. Although they have no physical power, although they have no deep mental thought, yet God uses all their baby-sounds to proclaim His praise, and put the devil in place. Little ones can and do—in their heart and soul—believe, trust in, and praise the Savior God, and proclaim His Name/His reputation, to the demise of Satan. Baby John the Baptist leaped for joy within his mother’s womb when Jesus entered the room. Psalm 8 was quoted by Jesus, after His Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, when children continued with “Hosanna!”—*Out of the mouth of babes You have perfected praise (Matthew 21:16).*

You silence the enemy and the avenger—God is in charge! There are those who oppose Him—that is, the devil and his cohorts who rebelled against God after creation, and were cast out of heaven. They still seek to ruin what God has made and done. They still try to get revenge against God. The LORD easily silences them, using even little babes.

v. 4 *What is man, that You are mindful of him?*—Mankind by himself can accomplish nothing. God need pay no attention to puny man. Although on the 6th day of creation God made man and gave him dominion over all creatures of the earth; man is as nothing before God, particularly after sin.

SPECIAL SECTION REFERRING TO GOD THE SON:

What is the son of man [Son of Man] that You visit him—At first, second, third reading, etc., this Psalm seems only to be talking about man and his descendants, his sons,” with whom God deals. But the New Testament tells us more. First, we go on.

vv. 5-8 *You have made him little lower than the angels*—Man and his descendants are glorious, but are less than the magnificence of angels

You have crowned him with glory and honor—Man is the crown of God’s six-day creation.

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet ... sheep, oxen, beasts, birds, fish —man was and continues to be blessed with dominion over all living creatures of earth, sky, and water.

Indeed, the Psalm seems only to be talking about “man” and his descendants after him, with whom God deals. However, in the New Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews, sheds a much deeper light on Psalm 8. That writer demonstrates from the Old Testament, that Jesus of Nazareth, the promised Savior, God and man, vastly superior to the angels is the one of whom Psalm 8 speaks as the “Son of Man!”

(Hebrews 1:1-4 and 2:5-9) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, who . . . when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. . . . He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But, one testified in a certain place, saying [writer now quotes the Psalm 8]*

*“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?*

⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels;

*You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.*

⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. (!)

When Psalm 8 says, “*What is the son of man [Son of Man] that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor,*” the Psalm is indeed talking about Jesus! Jesus was a “little while” lower than the angels. In His “humiliation,” that is, when He gave up the full use of His God-ness—from the point of conception within Mary until His return to life on the third day in the tomb—Jesus laid aside the full use of His “God-ness”/His Divinity; but in His Resurrection, He was indeed crowned and “exalted” with the highest glory and honor. With that glory He will return on the last day to take you to heaven! The LORD, the HE IS, uses the lowliness of infants to display His Name, and the humiliation of His Son, to rescue you from Satan, sin, and certain-death in hell forever! In Jesus there is forgiveness and clearing of your record from all your failures before God. The HE IS, a magnificent LORD. He is seen and witnessed in what He has made; is seen and witnessed through little babies whose words put Satan in his place; is seen and witnessed in His Son willingly to humbled Himself even to the point of death on the cross, to be exalted in glory, to save you! HE IS use even weakness to rescued man forever. Now you are mercifully counted-in with His family , through Christ.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

So be it! Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach--