

Considering the Work of God

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Psalm 8:1-9

This psalm is about the greatness of God. The same phrase is used at the beginning and the end to serve as “bookends” – “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.” His greatness is seen in what He has done and what He continues to do. Our recognition of this is critical if we are to understand our place before Him and in the world. Let’s consider this psalm and see what it teaches us about God and ourselves.

The Greatness of God

- God is “Lord” (v. 1) – Lord means one with authority, the right to rule (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 6:46); we are to regard Him as “our Lord,” making this personal; we have a responsibility before Him
- His name is “majestic” (v. 1) – means great and powerful; used of waves in the sea (Psalm 93:4); “in all the earth” means there is nothing beyond the reach of His power/authority
- His “splendor” is “displayed...above the heavens” (v. 1) – worthy of praise in the highest degree; even the moon and the stars in heaven testify of Him (v. 3; cf. Psalm 19:1)
- “From the mouth of infants... You have established strength” (v. 2) – “praise” (Septuagint); Jesus quoted this when children were praising Him during the triumphal entry and the leaders questioned it (Matthew 21:16); God’s power will be shown through the weak, through their praise and by them overcoming; enemies/adversaries may be more powerful, yet the weak overcome through God (cf. Romans 8:37-39)

The Place of Man

- The greatness of God shown in creation caused the psalmist to reflect (v. 3) – all things were created and continue through Him (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17)
- We have a very small place in the grand scheme of things (v. 4) – we are often tempted to think that the world revolves around us, but it doesn’t (Romans 12:3; Philippians 2:3-5); one day we will all be forgotten (Ecclesiastes 2:16)
- However, God sees us and cares for us (v. 4) – He provides us with every good thing (James 1:17); this passage was also used to refer to Jesus (Hebrews 2:6-9); even though Jesus died, He was raised from the dead, giving us hope (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)
- God has placed man over His creation (v. 5-7) – this has been true from the beginning (Genesis 1:28-30); we are special because we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27); our spirits are eternal (Ecclesiastes 3:11), unlike the animals (Ecclesiastes

3:19-21); rather than being creatures of instinct, we can choose to follow Him (Isaiah 1:18-20); let us do so

Remember God's Majesty

- The psalmist ends with the same phrase he started with (v. 9) – he introduced the thought at the beginning, then left us with a reminder of God's majesty
- No matter how strong our enemies may be, God is greater – so TRUST in Him
- No matter how accomplished we become, God is still over us – so SERVE Him
- No matter how insignificant we feel, God cares for us – so GIVE THANKS to Him

Conclusion

- Let us always remember who God is – THE Lord, OUR Lord, His name is universally to be praised
- Whatever might happen in his life, let us continue to TRUST, SERVE, and GIVE THANKS to Him