

THE EXCELLENCE OF GOD

Text: Psalm 8

INTRO: The basic purpose of this psalm is obvious from the first & last verse of the writing. This psalm is not strictly Messianic like the 2nd psalm & others, but because of the quotations made from it in the N.T. it properly belongs in a study of the Messianic psalms. The psalmist sets out to illustrate the excellence of God.

I. GOD'S EXCELLENCE IS SHOWN IN HIS ABILITY TO EFFECT PRAISE FROM THE YOUNG, THE UNEDUCATED, THE SIMPLE, vs. 2.

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 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. 21:15-16).

[Jesus prayed] 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. (Matt. 11:25).

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 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; 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, 29that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:26-29)

II. THE EXCELLENCE OF GOD'S NAME IS ALSO SHOWN IN THE SPLENDOR & BEAUTY OF THE HEAVENS HE CREATED, vs. 1, 3. Psalm 19:1

III. THE EXCELLENCE OF GOD'S POWER, MIGHT & AUTHORITY IS SHOWN MOST CLEARLY IN HIS CROWNING

CREATION -- MAN IN THE DIVINE IMAGE, vs. 4-8.

Then 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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
(Gen. 1:26-28).

A. Man has used this power to descend to the depths of the sea, to soar thru the air across oceans, mountains, deserts... to domesticate numerous forms of animal life, to develop hybrid crops, stamp out dread diseases...

B. But at the same time, man's abuses of this power have brought germ warfare, nuclear bombs, air pollution, water pollution, & dozens of other far-reaching problems.

IV. THE ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT OF PSALM 8:4-8 IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST, & IN HIM WE MAY PARTAKE OF THE VICTORY.

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 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. 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. But 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.
(Heb. 2:5-9).

which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:20-23)

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:22-28)

CONCLUSION: Thus in Christ, & in those who become Christ's by obedience to His will, God ultimately receives the glory that is due His excellence, vs. 1, 9.

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Exton, PA, January 8, 1989

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