

# Psalms – How Majestic Is Your Name

## *Psalm 8 ESV*

*To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.*

*[1] O LORD, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*[2] Out of the mouth of babies and infants,*

*you have established strength because of your foes,*

*to still the enemy and the avenger.*

*[3] When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

*[4] what is man that you are mindful of him,*

*and the son of man that you care for him?*

*[5] Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings*

*and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*[6] You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;*

*you have put all things under his feet,*

*[7] all sheep and oxen,*

*and also the beasts of the field,*

*[8] the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,*

*whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

*[9] O LORD, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

## Intro

**Purpose of the Psalm** – Excite our affections and incite us to worship

*the means that David uses to excite + incite is evident if you consider my marriage*

### **Marrying Nicole**

→ level jumper

→ Too smart, too pretty, too kind, too godly – I jumped a few levels

→ Really, she came down a few levels → SHE CONDESCENDED down to my level and married me

## CONDESCENSION: A BIG WORD W/ BIG IMPLICATIONS Psalm 8 – October 30, 2016

→ 2 meanings, we almost always hear the word used with the *-ve meaning*

### Define:

#### Dictionary

- the attitude or behavior of people who believe they are more intelligent or better than other people; patronizing attitude or behavior → *he spoke to me condescendingly*
- voluntary descent from one's rank or dignity in relations with an inferior

*A couple quotations to help us understand this characteristic of God which the Psalmist ~~was~~ is affected by*

### Condescension:

**WCF** – “The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto Him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of Him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he has been pleased to express by way of covenant.”

*Do you understand that there is an infinite difference btw God and humans that unless he condescended...*

**Oliphant** - “First, what does it mean for God to condescend to be with his creation? Certainly the notion of “conscend” or “coming down” is a metaphor God does not literally move from a higher location to a lower one, given that God is always and everywhere present. The metaphor, however, is intuitive enough that most would see immediately what we generally mean when we affirm that God has condescended. We mean that God freely determined to take on attributes, characteristics, and properties that he did not have, and would not have, without creation.”

**Calvin** - “For who is so devoid of intellect as not to understand that God, in so speaking, lisps with us as nurses are wont to do with little children? Such modes of expression, therefore, do not so much express what kind of a being God is, as accommodate the knowledge of him to our feebleness. In doing so, he must, of course, stoop far below his proper height.”

**Oliphant** – “What does God's “divine stoop” look like? It looks like the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Gen. 3:8); it looks like the angel of the Lord (who is the Lord himself calling to Abraham (Genesis 22), or to Moses (Exodus 3), or to Israel (Judges 2). Because of his voluntary condescension, the Lord protects and delivers his people (e.g., Ps. 34:7), and he fights for them (e.g., Isa. 37:36). All of this “relationality” on the part of Yahweh, the “I AM,” can happen only because he willingly decided to condescend to our level, to the level of the created.

⇒ *It is this condescension of God, this divine stooping, which seems to have raised David out of the distress, lamenting, suffering, and difficulties of Ps 3-7*

⇒ *It is condescension which has his exulting Oh Lord, our Lord...*

let's look at the Psalm and be lifted up to praise

Psalm 8 – October 30, 2016

**LORD/Lord** – Covenant God and Sovereign Master

**Your/you/LORD/Lord vs I** – 18 to 1

- Only psalm addressed solely to God
- When the people of God get a perspective of God it elicits the praise of God
- Apprehension of God's condescension produces appreciation!



**Main Idea:** God's majesty—His dignity, His nobility, His grandeur, His magnificence, His power—is made compellingly perceptible in his condescension—His stooping accommodation to humanity—and in seeing this we should worship him!

*See the Condescension of the Majestic LORD in His Power through Weak Ones, His Care of Weak Ones, His Plan for Weak Ones* + let it affect us the way it affected David!

His Power through Weak Ones

**v. 1b-2**

*You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established strength because of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.*

Praiseworthy condescension is seen in contrast: glory that is above the heavens vs. babies and infants

About out of the mouth has many interpretations, the most basic is Calvin's Calvin:

The praiseworthy majesty of God "in order to make itself known to mankind, does not wait till men arrive at the age of maturity, but even from the very dawn of infancy shines forth so brightly as is sufficient to confute all the ungodly, who, through their profane contempt of God, would wish to extinguish his very name. ... He says that babes and sucklings are advocates sufficiently powerful to vindicate ~~the~~ ... God. ... David, therefore, has the best reason for declaring, that although the tongues of all, who have arrived at the age of manhood, should become silent, the speechless mouth of infants is sufficiently able to celebrate the praise of God."

⇒ Hold up your babies

See the greatness of God in an infant, understand the stooping of God in communicating this through a baby, and praise Him!

We also see His magnificence in His condescension when we consider His Care of Weak Ones

v. 3-4

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?*

- Big Sky country – full moon, many stars
- Finger work not full body work
- Our own insignificance is evident *when we consider the cosmos*
- Yet God is mindful of man and cares for the son of man

**Dale Ralph Davis:**

- On a clear night David could likely see 2,000-3,000 stars.
- What if he'd had a good pair of binoculars? Up to 100,000.
- What if David knew that if the Milky Way galaxy were the size of the entire continent of North America, our solar system would fit in a coffee cup
- What if he knew that the coffee-cup contained Milky Way is one of perhaps 100 billion such galaxies in the universe?
- “He probably would have been even more staggered than he was but he had enough to stagger him, to be impressed with the massive vastness of his world over against his apparent insignificance.”
- “Only the condescension of God can hold together astronomical vastness and individual concern.”
- There is a healthiness to understanding our own insignificance in light of creation because it is balanced with the knowledge that God is mindful of us and cares for us!

*Commentator DRD*

*We are insignificant  
this could be  
unhealthy if God  
remained far off.*

*If you struggle w/ insignificance, the remedy for you is  
not found in convincing yourself of your own significance*

See the majesty and splendour of God in His condescension as He single-handedly created the cosmos yet is intimately concerned and careful with each one of you.

*We see the splendour of God in His glorious condescension in*

## His Plan for Weak Ones

v. 5-8

*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under his feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

**God created humanity for this purpose:**

Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and 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.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

*→ We were made to have dominion ⇒ condescension = God planning this for us*

**Mankind has failed because of sin:**

Genesis 3:17-19 ESV

And to Adam he said,  
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
 By the sweat of your face  
 you shall eat bread,  
 till you return to the ground,  
 for out of it you were taken;  
 for you are dust,  
 and to dust you shall return.”

⇒ we failed. We were not the faithful loyal son God desired

**Christ fulfilled the plan God had for men:**

Hebrews 2:5-9 ESV

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,

→ even the animals are NOT subject to us  
 → mosquitos kill 725,000

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
 or the son of man, that you care for him?  
 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
 you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

⇒ Christ is the fulfillment of this Psalm because he has dominion & his dominion will be realized

**This points to the most glorious condescension of God, and the reason why we should continually praise God recognizing his majesty:**

Philippians 2:5-11 ESV

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If you have never trusted in Christ, I pray you would see the majesty...

- We see God in the frailest, smallest members of our species; we see his condescension in babies
- In the stooping of God in becoming the creator of universe we see his glory in caring for and about men
- In the coming of Christ + his death + resurrection we see the most precious + God's condescension to bring us to Him = PRAISE