

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Psalm 8

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

Next week we will be back in 1 Corinthians.

❖ Day 1

Read Psalm 8.

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

¹O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Note: GITTITH, gīt'ith, is a feminine noun used exclusively in the titles of Psalms, 8, 81 and 84. While the meaning is uncertain, scholars have proposed three possible meanings: 1) a musical instrument made or used in the Philistine city of Gath; 2) a type of melody from Gath; or 3) a derivative of the Hebrew word יָתֵן, a “wine press” and thus meaning a song sung at the grape harvest. (adapted from Biblicaltraining.org/library/gittith)

1. Who is the author of this Psalm?

2. What phrase does he use to open and close the Psalm?

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3. In both verses 1 and 9, 'LORD' and 'Lord' are two different words in Hebrew. The English translators use 'LORD' (with small caps) to designate the covenant name of God (YHWH) and 'Lord' to translate *adon*, which means 'master'. The first is God's personal name (like we each have a personal first name). The second refers to God's title. How does the psalmist calling God by His name, and not just His title, affect how you perceive the tone of the address?
4. How far does God's majesty reach?
5. According to verse 1b, how does God's glory compare to creation (to the heavens)?

❖ Day 2

Read Psalm 8 again.

6. In verse 2, what is impressive about God using babies to still His enemies?
7. According to verses 3-4, how does David initially view man in comparison to the heavens? (Which seems more grand, or more impressive, or more significant, etc.?)
8. In verse 4, what does David say is God's attitude toward mankind?

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9. Despite man's comparative size, what two things does he say show the special significance of mankind? (see verses 5-6)
10. Is a person's significance derived from what he does or from God's declaration? Explain how this passage directs your answer.
11. How does the way God uses babies in verse 2 compare to how God uses man in verses 5-6?
12. Where in 1 Corinthians 1 did we see God using the weak to display His glory?
 - a. List at least one other example in the Bible where God used something weak to display His strength.

❖ Day 3

Read Psalm 8 again.

13. In verse 5, man is described as being "a little lower than *elohim*." 'Elohim' is plural and can be translated as 'heavenly beings (angels)' or 'God' or 'gods'. Do any of these translations change the comparison of man as elevated over the rest of creation? Explain.

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14. Where (in the Scriptures) did David learn of man's superiority over the rest of creation?

15. Read Genesis 1:26-28. What else in these verses indicates the significance of man?

16. Have you ever felt small or insignificant in comparison to creation, like when visiting the Grand Canyon or staring out at the ocean or viewing the cosmos through a telescope?

a. How does this passage affect your perspective?

17. Summarize this Psalm in one sentence.

18. How does this passage help us to see the value of all human life?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would rightly see the dignity and value of all human life. Pray also that the ways we live as God's image-bearers would bring glory to His majestic name.

If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to read all of 1 Corinthians and complete the Overview Lesson (available at summitwoodschurch.org/sermonstudy), or at least to read chapters 1-3 before we dive back into 1 Corinthians next week.