

PSALM

8:1-9

NKJV

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[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 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.

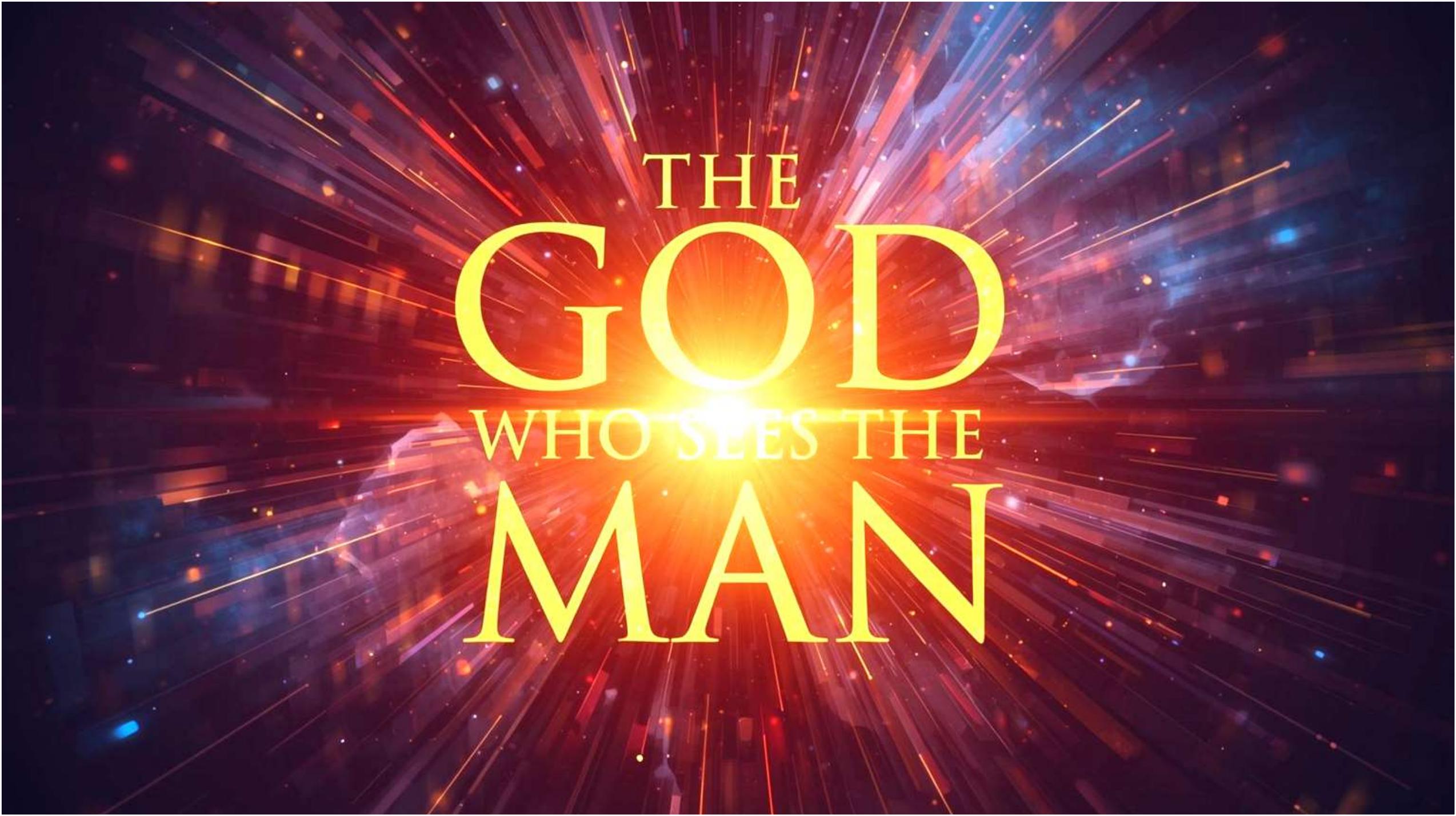
[6] You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

[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

Psalm 8 is a psalm or hymn of praise with wisdom connections. It is a poetic reflection of the great creation. Traditionally, the psalm is ascribed to David. It contains an **INDIVIDUAL MEDITATION, "O LORD,"** and it also embraces the **COMMUNITY** of God's people, **"our Lord."** However, the center of the psalm focuses on human beings, a rarity in Scripture with one of the best-known verses in all of the Bible: **"What is man that You are mindful of him?"**



THE
GOD
WHO SEES THE
MAN

1

**MAN SHOULD BE
MINDFUL
OF GOD**



2

MAN
— IN THE —
MIND OF GOD

3

MAN OF EXCELLENCE

1

**MAN SHOULD BE
MINDFUL
OF GOD**

v.1- 2 "O LORD, our Lord,

**How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!**

**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."**

**These verses tell us of the importance of recognizing
three things about God while we live and have the
chance.**

I. Recognize God's name

David begins his psalm by addressing God by His personal name: **"O LORD"** ("Yahweh").

God is known because He has chosen to make Himself known. He revealed His name to Moses, **"I AM who I AM"** and called him into a relationship with Himself (**Ex. 3:14**).

Knowing His name actualizes communion with Him.

O LORD, our Lord, **"Yehovah Adoneynu"** is a recognition of both the covenant name of God (LORD) and the position of Yahweh to His people (Lord). It is a simple, straightforward, and common way to say that **"Our God is our Master."**

II. Recognize the Value of God's name:

“How excellent is Your name in all the earth.”

**“Excellent” means, “to be broad, large,
powerful.”**

God is revealed in the majesty of both earth and heaven. God's name is "**excellent**" in all the earth.

"Who have set Your glory above the heavens." It is Yahweh's lordship over all things that reveals His glory.

Psalm 104:1–2: "O Lord my God, You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain."

Though the LORD was Israel's covenant God, He was also God of more than just Israel. His name is excellent...in ALL THE EARTH.

III. Recognize God's strength.

A. His Strength through His children.

"Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength."

David considers that the power and glory of God can be seen in small children – babes and nursing infants – as God's strength is evident in them.

God uses weak things to display His glory and strength.

1 Corinthians 1:27 says: "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."

Maclaren: "Out of such frail material as children's speech, God builds a tower of strength, which, like some border castle, will bridle and still the restless enemy."

Horne: "The praises of the Messiah, celebrated in the church by his children, have in them a strength and power which nothing can withstand..."

Jesus quoted this passage to His indignant accusers.

Matthew 21:15-16

"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'?"

B. His Strength over His enemies.

"Because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy"

The reason why God displays His strength in unlikely vessels is because it works to silence the enemy.

Eg. Job

Through our worship of Him God has ordained His **"strength"** or **"stronghold,"** "Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger."

When God's people, weak and strong alike, begin to praise His name, the realm of Satan and his demons is rolled back.



2

MAN
— IN THE —
MIND OF GOD

**"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the 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."**

Great heavenly objects such as the moon and the stars are the work of God's fingers.

Clarke: "Notwithstanding the amazing magnitude of the sun, we have abundant reason to believe that some of the fixed stars are much larger: and yet we are told they are the work of **GOD'S FINGERS!** What a hand, to move, form, and launch these globes!"

Man is crowned with glory and honor. "**What is man that You are mindful of him.**" This is the surprising glory of mankind. Where the human being is in the mind of God.

Considering the greatness of the heavens makes us consider the relative smallness and insignificance of man. Why such a big, great God would be mindful of such small beings?

David did not doubt that God was mindful of man. He simply said **"You are mindful of him"**.

We should share his assured confidence that God is mindful of us. He thinks of us and considers what we do.

Trapp: "Sorry, sickly man, a mass of mortalities, a map of miseries, a mixture or compound of dirt and sin...and yet God is mindful of him."

"What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You should visit him" is a poetic method of repetition, to speak the idea in a stronger way.

SON OF MAN is a title that emphasizes the **"humanness"** of man,

VISIT him is yet stronger than mindful of him.

Therefore we should be confident that God not only carefully thinks about man, but that He has some kind of personal connection and contact with men "that You visit him". He thinks about us and He ACTS in our lives.

God "made man a little lower than the angels" (v.5), - man is beneath the angels in present glory, power, and nearness to God.

The word Elohim most often refers to God Himself.

VanGemereren: "The Hebrew for **"angels"** is simply **'God'** or **'gods'** (**'Elohim'**). It may refer to angelic beings."

Significantly, David did not say that man was **"a little higher than the beasts,"**

Theologians since Thomas Aquinas have noted that man is in a middle position between the angels and the animals: lower than the angels yet higher than the animals.

God's glory is above the heavens, yet He put this same glory and honor on man as a crown. **"You have crowned him with glory and honor" (v.5)** This is an effective way of identifying man with God and of saying that he has been made in God's image, reflecting God's glory in a way other creations do not.

3

MAN OF EXCELLENCE

**"You have made him to have dominion over the works of
Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen –
Even the beasts of the field,
The birds of the air,
And the fish of the sea
That pass through the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Lord,
How excellent is Your name in all the earth!"**

The mandate given to Adam and His descendants at creation:

Genesis 1:26

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."

Genesis 9:2

"And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand."

By both God's decree and through superior ability, man indeed has dominion over the other creatures and resources of the earth.

As part of this authority, mankind has the responsibility to wisely manage the creatures and resources of this earth in a way that gives God glory and is good for man.

The mandate of dominion asks man to use the creatures and resources of the earth, but to use them wisely and responsibly.

In light of all this, it is a great tragedy when a man is captured and held in bondage by the things of this world. We were born to have dominion over such material things, instead of being in bondage to them.

What happened to the man who was created a little lower than angels?

When we are not mindful of God, unimaginable things can happen. We can turn into corruption as our minds and principles become corrupt.

Boice: “Although made in God’s image and ordained to become increasingly like the God to whom they look, men and women have turned their backs on God. And since they will not look upward to God, which is their privilege and duty, they actually look downward to the beasts and so become increasingly like them.”

The writer of Hebrews points out that this divine call and gift given to man of great dominion over the whole earth is tragically unfulfilled.

Do we still have that crown? Do we still have the glory?

Fallen man seems so weak and incapable of dominion over his own thoughts and desires, much less crowned with glory and honor. Yet, as Hebrews properly says, **"but we see Jesus"**

Hebrew 2:9 "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."

Jesus humbled Himself and became a human being. In His earthly ministry, He was **"a little lower than the angels"**. As a man, He willingly experienced suffering and death, just as we do. But Jesus **"tasted death for everyone"**. He took on our nature and became like us, but without the sin and rebellion that tarnish our existence.

Through His death, Jesus broke the power of death for us: **“Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves”** Jesus became a human and died to set us free from death and destruction.

Jesus took the crown that we lost but on Him was the crown of thorns, so that anyone, through Him, that crown might be restored. We need to go back to being mindful of God in our lives. God has already visited you many times; do not reject Him, do not ignore Him. He has been convicting you of sins, do not take it lightly.

In Him we have had the full revelation of the greatness of man. But we have seen more than that. We have seen Him 'crowned with glory and honour, that by the grace of God He should taste death for every man.'

CONCLUSION:

There are three wonderful and important truths about man found in this psalm; when these truths are denied or neglected, man never is what God made him to be.

- **God made man therefore he should be mindful of God.**
- **God made man something glorious because he is in the mind of God.**
- **God made man for a high and worthy destiny through One Man's excellence.**

Though for a little while set lower than the angels, man's destiny is one day to be crowned with a glory and honor that surpasses even the angels. It is the destiny of redeemed men and women to one day be lifted above the angels through One MAN - **Jesus Christ.**