

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 8

The Excellency of Our Lord

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: **Phil 2:5-8; Acts 4:12**

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. Psalms is not a fairy-land Book though - always talking about airy-fairy feelings, but down-to-earth experiences, and the way through them. David is the greatest window in the mind of Christ, and how to rely on it!
- C. The key is in getting serious about it though! We are told to STUDY because it takes Study to learn, and integrate what we learn!
- D. Tonight we are going to sit back with young David, and just meditate about two things: God, and Mankind! I'll give you just ONE guess, which one is going to get the most thoughts!

II. Message - The Excellency of Our Lord

A. The Excellency of His Name

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

1. Listen to David, as he thinks about a name – the name of the Lord
 - a) I think about several names that mean something special to me: Nita, Sharon, Joel, Ruth, Joshua, Sarah
 - b) But God's name is excellent – excels all other names
 - c) His name is above all names! BOTH Jesus and Jehovah is the best of names. No other name compares
 - d) It's Better than any other name:
 - 1) Allah, Krisna, Baal, Ashtaroth
 - 2) Mohamed Ali (aka Cassius Clay), Jimmy Hendrix, John Lennon, Bill Gates, William B Yeats
2. The Names of God
 - a) His Title is "God" – Elohim – the Supreme Being – like Prime Minister, Boss, etc
 - b) But He has many proper names, which include (Ps 148:13; Phil 2:5-8)
 - 1) Jehovah (Ex 6:3) – the Eternal Being, who keeps His promises
 - 2) The I AM (Ex 3) – the self existent Being
 - 3) Almighty God - El Shaddai
 - 4) The Alpha and Omega – the Beginning and the End
 - 5) Jehovah Jirah (Gen 22:14) – The Lord my Provider
 - 6) Jehovah Nissi (Ex 17:15) – The Lord my Banner – My Warrior!
 - 7) Jehovah Shalom (Jgs 6:24) – the Lord my Peace
 - 8) THE LORD THY GOD (Dt 28:58)
 - 9) My wife has a few names: Nita, Sweetheart, Mom, Hey beautiful!
 - c) It is the most important name – a holy, pure, PERFECT name
 - 1) It was believed to be too holy to even pronounce (Mk 14:61) – which is wrong!
 - 2) Just don't use it flippantly, in vain, or blasphemously
 - 3) It is the name we trust in it (Pr 18:10; 20:7)
 - 4) We worship it (Philp 2:10)
 - 5) We love it (Isa 9:6)
 - d) We attach it to everything we do (Col 3:17)
 - 1) We believe in His name (Acts 4:12; Rom 10:13)
 - 2) Worship in His name
 - 3) Preach in His name (Acts 9:29)
 - 4) Baptize in His name (Acts 19:5)
 - 5) Pray in His name (John 14:13,14)
 - 6) Witness in His name (Acts 3)
 - 7) Marry in His name - not just before God, but as CHRISTIANS!!! Under Christ's name!
 - 8) We serve in His name – doing everything under His authority

- e) He has a most glorious, and a most powerful name
 - f) It upsets not only demons, but sinners!
 - g) It thrills me!
3. His Name is part of the glory of God
- a) We all know about the glory of earth
 - b) We all know about the glory and the wonder of life
 - c) We all know about the glory of the heavens, the stars, the beauty of the universe
 - d) The glory of God is greater – is above it all – it is infinite
 - e) David meditates on the glory of God (Cf Ps 19:1; Rom 3:23)
 - 1) His splendour, His beauty, brightness, power, awesomeness
 - 2) It had occupied the Tabernacle in the wilderness (Exo 40:34,35 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.)
 - 3) His glory is not only in the extreme, but in the simple, and even in the silence
 - f) All of this thinking about the name of God, and the glory of God will cause you to praise God

B. The Excellency of His Praise (8:2)

Psa 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

1. God loves Praise by Children – simplicity
2. Praise is a great strength of the Christian – not anger, wrath, strength
3. Praise is the ability to believe in God, and trust Him for the victory
4. Jesus re-words this verse to prove it to be so (Mt 21:16)
 - a) Praise broke down the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6:5)
 - b) Not a quiet feeling, but a shout, a joyful noise (Ps 5:11)
 - c) Praise can defeat our enemies (2Chron 20:21,22)
 - d) It Shuts the mouth of our enemies
 - e) Even over-rules our adversaries - those who have valid accusations against us
5. Don't let just the rocks and nature and even children praise God (Lk 19:37-40)!
6. Don't let your enemies rob your praise, and your trust in the Lord!

C. The Excellency of His Handiwork (Ps 8:3-4a)

Psa 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

1. David starts to consider Creation
 - a) The Sun, Moon, and Stars (Gen 1:14-16)
 - b) God created them, ordered their paths, designed the laws that govern them
2. Describes them as the work of God's fingers – like “child’s play” with plasticene clay
 - a) Carved out canyons and ocean depths
 - b) Designed snowflakes and diamond crystals
 - c) Remember that this is the God who moulds and fashions your and my life as a potter does!
3. And then stops with the epitome of God's creation - Man - mankind
 - a) Shame! Not much to be proud of from this viewpoint! It actually grieved Him to have made us at one time (Gen 6)
 - b) A bona fide pile of wet dust
 - c) We are for sure, an amazing creation
 - d) But compared to God, we are nothing (Isa 40:15,17)
 - e) We are truly nothing (Ps 39:5)

D. The Excellency of His Love (Ps 8:4)

Psa 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

1. Yet, even though we are bust dust, God's thoughts are towards us – he is mindful of us
 - a) His mind is FULL of thoughts ABOUT us!
 - b) That's what love is!

2. What does God think about when he thinks of people? (Isa 55:8,9)
 - a) Plans, designs, His will, the best for us (Jer 29:11)
 - b) Very deep thoughts (Ps 92:5)
 - c) Precious thoughts (Ps 139:17,18)
 - d) Better than anything you or I could ever dream (1Cor 2:9,10)

E. The Excellency of God's Will (Psalm 8:5-8)

Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Psa 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

Psa 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

1. Made man a little lower than the angels, higher than the animals
 - a) The Angels see God, dwell with God – have no faith
 - b) Animals are brute beasts – have no faith either
 - c) But, Mankind, well, we HAVE to learn to trust God, and live by faith
2. God has put us in charge of everything - as managers - stewards (1Cor 4:1,2) Have dominion over everything:
 - a) Over the ground, the air, the seas
 - b) Even over space, and other planets
 - c) Dominion over every work of God's hands
 - d) Over animals, birds, and all fish and even whales
 - e) It is God's will to be in charge, not be dominated by things, and people, and sins
 - 1) 1 Cor 6:12
 - 2) The only freedom a person will ever experience is under Christ (Gal 5:1)
 - 3) Almost anything can bring you into bondage (Heb 12:15,16) – including bitterness
 - 4) We are to dominate our emotions, our hearts, our eyes, our minds, our days, our thoughts (2Cor 10:4-6)
3. God "crowns" us with this position in His plan
4. People who are dominated by anything other than Jesus, are slaves!

F. His Name is just Simply Excellent (Psalm 8:8)

Psa 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

1. David just sits back and starts over, meditating about that name
2. Just realising all the above is true, simply because of the meaning of the name of His God

III. Concluding Questions

- A. What do YOU spend your time considering? Thinking about?
- B. Can you remember ANY of God's names?
- C. What or who does not like God's name?
- D. What will thinking about the name of God, and the glory of God cause you to do?
- E. What is a great strength of the Christian?
- F. What is the best of God's creation?
- G. What does God think about when he thinks of people?
- H. Did God design you with a plan in mind for your life?
- I. Do you want to find that out?
- J. Do you think it is excellent?
- K. What is the only way to keep from being in bondage to this world?