

How Excellent is Your Name

Psalm 8: 1-9

We have read another Psalm of David and many attribute this to be one of the earliest, if not the first, psalm David wrote. Some scholars believe it to be written while David spent many nights out in the pastures keeping watch over his father's sheep. Others agree that it was written during the time of David's great victory over Goliath. Either would have been early in the life of David, and does not detract from its beauty and truth. Wherever and whenever David penned these beautiful words it is apparent he was struck with wonder as He considered the majesty and wonder of God.

As beautiful as the Psalm is, it isn't without controversy. Some view it in light of God's consideration of humanity, and others view it solely in a prophetic light concerning Christ. I believe it is possible to see both views related here without compromising the integrity of the text. It is undeniable that this Psalm speaks of the coming Messiah and His redemptive work, but we also see God's gracious love and care for humanity as well. It is a Psalm of worship and thanksgiving unto the Lord of all, revealing the divine nature of God.

Let's take a few moments to examine the beautiful words of David as he describes the [divine attributes](#) of God. I want to consider his thought: [How Excellent is Your Name](#).

I. The Lord's Preeminence (1) – [O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens](#). Whether sitting among the sheep on a clear night or considering the valley of Elah contemplating the battle with Goliath, David was compelled to worship the Lord. David was well aware there were none like the God he served. The glory of the Lord exceeded the height of the heavens. His name was exalted above all others.

- As we consider this compelling statement, I trust you noticed a distinction in the names of God mentioned of David. He referred to Him as the LORD our Lord. David was literally saying, "O Jehovah our Adonai." The name Jehovah is God's redemptive name, His personal name. It reveals He is the eternal and self-existent one. The name Adonai refers to the Lord being our master and owner.
- This is quite significant when we consider the context of which this was written and even the context of our lives. David needed great strength and wisdom in either situation. He was confident in the Lord he served. He knew Jehovah was his Lord and Master. His life was observed and superintended of none other than Jehovah. He belonged to Him, so what should he fear.
- That ought to bring great comfort and assurance to the children of God today! We serve Jehovah as well. He is our Lord and Master. We belong to Him. We have been bought with a

price, by the precious blood of Christ our Lord. His name exceeds all others. How excellent is His name. That speaks of the majesty, greatness, and loftiness of His wonderful name!

II. The Lord's Power (2-3) – As David considered his weakness and inadequacy to overcome the adversities he faced, he rejoiced in the power of the God he served. He spoke of:

A. His Conquest (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.* Regardless of the strength and power of his adversaries, David knew their power paled in comparison to that of the Lord. God was well able to overcome anything David would face, and provide him the strength to endure. The weakest among men, babes and sucklings, declared the power and majesty of God. David could rest in the midst of adversity knowing His God was in control. Charles Spurgeon said, "*How often will children tell us of a God whom we have forgotten! How doth their simple prattle refute those learned fools who deny the being of God!*"

- Isn't that comforting to know? One doesn't have to be advanced in age or wisdom to trust in the Lord. Simple child-like faith will bring confident assurance of God's ability to meet our needs and keep us according to His will. What could we possibly face or endure that God is not able to sustain and keep us?

B. His Creation (3) – *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;* David considered the heavens, likely on a star-lit night, and stood in wonder and amazement at the power of God in creation. All that he viewed had been created by the mighty hand of God. It was all there according to His divine plan and by His unequalled power. David was literally amazed when He consider the awesome power of God.

- Do you ever take a moment to consider the wonder of creation? I am amazed when I consider all God has done and the wondrous power He possesses. The vastness of the universe, the beauty of the earth, the wonder of the human body and life itself, all of this was created and sustained by the God of heaven. He is my Lord, my Savior, my God and King. *Jeremiah 10:12 – He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.*

III. The Lord's Provision (4-8) – Here David discusses God's awareness of mankind and points to the coming of Christ as the Redeemer. Notice:

A. His Presence (4) – *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?* David was amazed that man would even enter the thoughts of such a powerful and divine Lord. He stood in awe that God was mindful of us and that He would visit us with His gracious presence.

- I too am amazed that God would care for us that much. I am thankful that He is aware of our needs and works in our lives. I rejoice to feel His presence in my life and have the gracious privilege of fellowshiping with Him. We are blessed beyond measure to be offered an intimate relationship with God through Christ our Lord.
- We cannot miss the prophetic nature of this statement. David's words point to the coming of Christ into the world. As He was born of a virgin womb, taking on a body of flesh, God visited man and dwelt among us!

B. His Providence (5) – *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.* David rejoiced in the providence of God. He knew mankind was the desire and will of God in creation. Man enjoyed the opportunity to commune with God, receiving the favor of God. He was placed within the order of creation just below the angels of heaven. David was overwhelmed at such loving favor.

- We would all have to admit that God has offered more blessing than we deserve. We too enjoy His divine favor and have the privilege of walking in fellowship with Him. Who am I that the God of heaven would recognize and bestow such grace?
- We must also consider the providence of God in redemption revealed here. Christ stood with God in heaven while all was created. He enjoyed the worship of angels and the glory associated with heaven. In order to provide for our salvation, Christ willingly condescended to the lowly estate of man, submitting to a place that was a little lower than the angels. His glory and divinity may have been covered and hidden by flesh, but He remained God in every way. He willingly came to die for us. This was all within the providential hand of God making a way for our redemption! *Philippians 2:7-9 – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:* ^[8] *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* ^[9] *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

C. His Plan (6-8) – *Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:* ^[7] *All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;* ^[8] *The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.* David knew God had given man

a position of honor and authority over the works of His creation. Man had dominion over the animals, birds, beasts, and creatures of the sea. This was all within the divine plan of God. The animals do not enjoy fellowship with God. That gracious position is reserved for mankind.

- Prophetically this also speaks of Christ. He created all and He is above all. He came the first time as a sacrificial Lamb to provide atonement for sin. He was despised and rejected, giving His life a ransom for us. His return will be much different than His first advent. He will come in great power and glory, subduing all, and having creation under His feet. He will rule and reign the earth with power and authority! [Philippians 2:10-11 – That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ^{\[11\]} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.](#) [Hebrews 2:8-9 – Thou hast 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 see not yet all things put under him. ^{\[9\]} But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.](#)

IV. The Lord's Praise (9) – [O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!](#) As David concludes his thoughts of the majesty, power, and grace of our Lord he offers praise unto Him for all He is and all He provides. Again David confirms that none compare to the Lord. His name and majesty exceeds all others. None rivaled the Lord in David's day and none rival Him today!

- Should that not be our song of praise as well? There can be no doubt that David was blessed greatly of the Lord, but we have been blessed also. Who among us can say that God has not been good in our lives? When I consider His greatness and majesty, I stand in awe of Him. I am amazed that He cares for us as He does. I am amazed that He longs to fellowship with us. I am amazed He is preparing a home in heaven for the saved. I am amazed that He would love us enough to leave the glories of heaven for the suffering of the cross. What a gracious Lord we serve. How excellent is His name in all the earth!

Conclusion: Have you considered the Lord lately? Do you ever ponder all that you have in Him? If so, does it compel an attitude of worship and gratitude? How long has it been since you genuinely offered thanksgiving for His many benefits? Maybe you need to come tonight and spend some time in prayer offering our Lord the worship He is worthy of.

David was able to perceive these great attributes of God because He knew Him personally. Do you know Christ as your Savior? Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Christ as Lord. Whether in this life or in judgment, all will proclaim Him Lord. If you are unsaved, respond to Him by faith, repenting of sin and seeking salvation!