

God's Beautiful Creation

St. Mark Lutheran
Two services(summer schedule)

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O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. 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?

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.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Psalm 8:1-9

This Sunday, we look at what King David tells us about God's beautiful creation. Psalm 8 is a psalm about the glory of our great God, and the evidence of his existence he shows us through his creation, both in the heavens and on this earth. He created it; he sustains it; he allows us to live in it.

This morning we are going to try something a little different in sermons. This will be an expository sermon. We are going to take verses 1-4 verse by verse and attempt to explain the meaning of each verse.

We have a large section of our congregation away from us this morning, but they are on the same page. They are studying God's creation through visits to the Creation Museum in Kentucky and also the replica that was built of Noah's Ark. Pastor Mark and Deacon Chris have even prepared Bible studies to correlate with their visits. May they be blessed also.

Let's look now at verses 1-2 of what the Psalmist says: *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*

The Psalmist starts by saying "Oh Lord, our Lord." It is easy to keep right on going and miss something here. Note that David first calls God by his name. The next two words are different. David makes reference to God by his position. It is important that we recognize this if we are to have a right understanding of God

God created everything, and most people believe that. But they often stop short of understanding what God really wants. They acknowledge that God is real. They may even acknowledge that Jesus came as God and gave his life for the sin of the world. That is very important but still a little short of something else that is important. God is also our Ruler and our Master.

The words of Jesus sum up well the problem with many people here. Jesus once said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" (Luke 6:46) Some people don't want God to be the Lord of their lives. They don't want to submit to him. They don't desire a close relationship with him. They think it should be enough just to believe that he exists. Be warned! This viewpoint can cause serious problems.

But whether or not they are willing to submit to him doesn't change the fact that he is the Lord over everyone and everything. Jesus is Lord! The wise Christian desires to please God, obey his word, and allow him to lead their lives.

David also says, "how majestic is your name in all the earth" Do you want a sign that God is really great? We have one in Jeremiah 23:24 where God says, "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Wow! He sure is nothing like us, is he? No matter where you go, God is there. Whether you are on land or on the sea, God is there. Whether you are in the desert, or on an iceberg, God is there. _

That's not all. The Psalmist says, "You have set your glory above the heavens." When David looked up at the universe at night he only saw a small part with his naked eye, but what he saw was spectacular. And God was there. He knew that even beyond the farthest star, God's glory was there. Today we can go to a planetarium and see beyond the Milky Way Galaxy and into other galaxies and evidence of millions and millions of stars. No wonder that it says in Psalms 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." How great thou art!

Now verse three says, *"Out of the mouths of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger."*

You may be wondering what we can do with that! When you think of a baby, you don't think of it as being strong. Babies and infants are small; they are weak; they are dependent upon their parents. Yet David says that God has ordained strength through their mouths. Maybe we are looking at it the wrong way.

Babies are beautiful. Babies are awesome. I am ready when someone tries to tell me that they don't believe in miracles. I tell them that if you have seen a baby, you have seen a miracle. The miracle is best explained by looking for mankind's Creator.

God gives babies natural instincts to know when they are hungry, and how to drink their mother's milk, and how to cry when they need something. It is amazing to watch them grow in their toddler years, and to see how God has programmed them to speak, and to learn what things are, and how to walk and all sorts of things.

There are numerous examples of children standing up for Jesus, even in the presence of his enemies. In Matthew 21 the chief priests and scribes were opposed to the wonderful things Jesus was doing, and yet they heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The chief priests were upset and said with indignation to Jesus, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise?'"

Charles Spurgeon tells the account of a man named Mr. Lawrence who was sentenced to be burned at the stake. He was carried to the fire in a chair because he had been beaten so badly that he could not stand up. Several young children approached the fire and cried, " Lord, strengthen thy servant, and keep thy promise." Mr. Lawrence, strengthened by their brave prayers, died firmly and calmly, a great witness to the faith he confessed. There are numerous other stories I could tell. The point is: God has used even children to declare the greatness of our Creator God. Many times they have a greater faith than adults.

Verse four says, *"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?"*

God's creation has a purpose. There is much evidence for a Creator from cosmology, which is the study of the universe. In his book Science Reveals God, Bob Hoskin quotes Arno Penzias, who received a Nobel Prize in physics, as saying this: "Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying plan." Hoskins goes on to say that the universe is really "fine tuned", with many things in it connected with extreme precision, so much so that if conditions were changed just a little bit life would not be possible. Recent evidence discovered in cosmology has convinced a long time atheist named Frank Tipler, professor of Mathematical Physics at Tulane University, to now affirm that there has to be a Creator. He has followed that up now by becoming a Christian. One of the most famous biologists and atheists in all of the world, Anthony Flew from Oxford University, has switched sides also. The author of about forty books, his book in 2010 is titled There Is A God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind.

Our universe is so big that if one were to travel across it at the speed of light, it is said that it would take billions of years! When comparing our galaxy and the universe to man, we look sort of small, weak, and insignificant, don't we? On top of that, we have a sinful nature, and even when we have the best of intentions, we go right on sinning! If you look around the world, you see the destruction we have left in our path, and the hatred we have shown one another, and the pain we bring to ourselves and others. We have fights among ourselves and wars between nations. We hurt those we ought to love the most and leave broken families all over the place , and then many who have led such miserable lives often blame God for all that is wrong!

The totally amazing thing is....God still loves us. We are a special creation of his. The Psalmist says God has chosen to crown us with "glory and honor". God is still seeking his people. He has revealed a plan to save us. Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

I have to say, there is still one thing greater than all of this wonderful creation of God. What would that be? It is the grace of God. Grace is our word for the undeserved mercy of God, available to us because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For God, in the person of Jesus Christ, has visited us. Jesus took on flesh and became one of us. He walked with mankind and taught them about himself. He lived with mankind and showed that he had the power of God by doing all kinds of miracles. He died for mankind on the cross, as our substitute to pay for our sins, and he rose from the dead to show that he has power over death. His words of God's mercy have been preserved to this day: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:16)

So on this day, we close by reading what King David said in Psalms 8:9: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Amen.