

## The Glory of Humanity! Psalm 8

Perhaps the occasion for this astonishing Psalm is a quiet time of contemplation while David tended sheep alone in the wilderness. Billions of stars are on display, all for God's praise. David lies on his back in the quiet of the night and gazes at the heavens. He meditates on the "*littleness and the latent potential*" of mankind from the creation account in Genesis 1-2.

***The Frame: God's Unfathomable Majesty*** (1a+9): This Psalm focuses on humanity. However, this incredible declaration frames Psalm 8 with thundering applause for the incomparable majesty and splendor and magnificence of God as Creator and Sustainer of all. We cannot begin to grasp who we are until our view of God is enlarged by revelation. The Psalm begins and ends with the exact same expression of wonder. This is a Hebraic way to emphasize what lies between these two bookends. Framed by the LORD's majesty, David focuses on the "*glory of humanity.*"

**1. God's Image-Bearer Compared to the Creator** (1b-2): Verse 1a points to the creation that visibly reflects God's splendor. "*What is God like?*" Splendor! Majesty! In Psalm 19 and Isaiah 40, as here, Scripture bankrupts our minds with God's greatness by exploring the universe, one layer after another.

In one swift stroke in verse 2, David reveals the lightweight littleness of humanity *compared to* the Creator. Mere children and even nursing infants. Yet not helpless babes. God reveals Himself to those who embrace Him with the simplicity of faith and His people then silence God's enemies.

Don't miss the object of the comparison, God Himself. Or else we stumble into the trap of thinking small of ourselves and may even misname this poverty mentality as humility (like, "*It's all God. I can't do anything*"). Nothing could be farther from David's mind! Everyone loses when you or I play small. Humility is *accurately* seeing who we are in light of God and His Word.

**2. God's Image-bearer Compared to Creation** (3-8). David again gazes at the enormity and brilliance of God's handiwork in His heavens with its moon and stars. And David ponders again, this time on humanity (4). The macro-creation sets David's focus on his micro-self. Why does God take a second thought at mere mortals? David moves to the very heart of our second essential question, "*How does this majestic God of splendor and majesty see and think of me and you?*"

*Read verse 5 now, preferably in the NASB version.*

Did David's words shock you? "*A little lower than God!*" **Humanity** "*crowned with glory.*" We can have a proper, high view of our Creator-God (1b-2) yet miss connecting because of an orphan mentality of ourselves. This is revelation, accurately stripping off the layers so we see ourselves accurately. *Do you believe David's revelation?*

Yet You have made him a little lower than **God**, And You crown him with glory and majesty! (Psalm 8:5, **emphasis**, NASB; see also NIV, Amplified & NIV footnote).

Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods, bright with Eden's dawn light (Psalm 8:5, *The Message*).

The word translated “*God*” is the word *Elohim*, used in worship songs. It’s also the primary word used for God in Genesis 1, which David reflects on in this Psalm. In Genesis 2:7, God formed man from the earth, breathed into His nostrils the breath of life, and we became human. For more support, see the Appendix in my book, *Discover Yourself in the Psalms*, available on Amazon.com.

*“How does God see me?”*

*“Just a little lower than God Himself.”*

Yet there’s more as David reflects on Genesis 1:26-28. God fashioned us as stewards over this earth, co-rulers with Him. This is not something that we illegally usurped. It’s God original Eden-intent for each of us, co-regents partnering with God as His intimate allies. And God did not change His mind because of Genesis 3. As redeemed and restored image-bearers through faith in Christ, begin to reclaim our birthright authority from Genesis 1. Both dust and divinity, the *Both/And* mystery of *godliness*.

Continue to build an inventory from Scripture as responses to our two essential questions.

- *“What is God like?”*
- *“How does this God see me?”*

How do we get our minds and reasoning around such a stunning view of God’s bold design to fashion us as image-bearers? We can’t *yet we can marinate in this high view of redeemed and restored* image-bearers through faith in Christ until it becomes a power point in our life.