

God uniquely created us and invited us to rule over His creation, but man relinquished that authority when sin entered the world.

The author of Hebrews helps us see the connection between mankind becoming subject to the penalty for sin and the fact that we no longer see all things under our authority.

Hebrews 2:6-9 NLT - 6 For in one place the Scriptures say, "What are mere mortals that you should think about them, or a son of man that you should care for him? 7 Yet you made them only a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 8 You gave them authority over all things." Now when it says "all things," it means nothing is left out. But we have not yet seen all things put under their authority. 9 What we do see is Jesus, who was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.

What did Jesus do to reclaim authority over all things? How does putting ourselves under Jesus authority as our Lord and savior restore the honor God gave man?

WRAP UP

The infinite, almighty creator of all things cares for us. He has authority over all things and desires to give us that authority, though we are mere mortals. But in the Garden man chose to believe and follow Satan rather than trust and follow God. And so, we are under the penalty of sin and have relinquished our authority to Satan, until we accept Jesus' death and make Him our lord and savior.

Memory Verse

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Psalm 8:9 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs. _____

Challenge- Be on a "God Hunt" this week. Look for answers to prayer, God's provision in your life, and His invitation to join in doing His work.

"Psalm 8"

Chroma- #2

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 8 is one of the Psalms of praise written by David. It is filled with joy and wonder and worship of God. David also recognizes the incredible grace and blessings God has extended to his children. Hopefully we have all had moments when everything around us seems magnificent and awe-inspiring and we realize that it is all a gift from our Lord and creator. In this short song of praise David calls to mind the proof of God's glory revealed to us. Begin by reading Psalm 8 aloud.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

If you could go anywhere in the world and get away by yourself for a day to enjoy the natural surroundings, where would you go? Tropical island, Rainforests, African plains, forested mountain peaks, Arctic Glaciers???

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. The Glory of God

Psalm 8:1 NLT - 1 For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument. O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens.

David intended for the choir and musicians to declare this magnificent truth about God. If we pause to consider it, we too will be overwhelmed by the immensity of God's greatness. Some of the greatest theologians have expressed it in their writings.

We need not wonder at this, for no heart can measure, no tongue can utter, the half of the greatness of Jehovah. The whole creation is full of his glory and radiant with the excellency of his power; his goodness and his wisdom are manifested on every hand. The countless myriads of terrestrial beings, from man the head, to the creeping worm at the foot, are all supported and nourished by the Divine bounty. The solid fabric of the universe leans upon his eternal arm. - Charles Spurgeon 1834-1892

David uses two different names to address God; “LORD” - *Yēhovah* – “the existing one” the proper name of the one true God, and “Lord” - *Adonay* which means my Lord and is a reverent expression of submission to God. This not only recognizes who God is, but also our relationship to Him.

What do we miss out on if we recognize God’s greatness but not our relationship to Him, and what do we lose if we recognize our relationship to God without grasping the immensity of who He is?

2. Strength Revealed through Weakness

Psalm 8:2 NLT - 2 You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.

Even though God’s glory is higher than the heavens, His strength is revealed through the least likely of sources; infants and children.

What are some of the ways you might see God’s power revealed in an infant or a small child?

Matthew 21:15-16 NLT - 15 The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David." But the leaders were indignant. 16 They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'"

We see in Matthew 21 that children praised Jesus in the temple and how his enemies were silenced, fulfilling what was said of God.

If Jesus applied Psalm 8:2 to Himself, what was He declaring to the priests about who He is?

1 Corinthians 1:27 NLT - 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

We may feel we the need to confront the opponents of the Gospel with power to defeat them but consider the power struggle between Satan and Job.

Wasn't Job weak and fail when he withstood the enemy? What was it that enabled him to withstand the attacks and prevail? Are there times in your life that God has used your weakness to display His strength?

3. Proper perspective

Psalm 8:3-8 NLT - 3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers--the moon and the stars you set in place-- 4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? 5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority-- 7 the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, 8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.

As the reality of God’s magnificence and power are contemplated by David, he realizes just how small man is with respect to the universe and he is overcome by the fact that the creator of all things cares for him.

Right now, there are 7.5 billion people on the earth. What do you think is the depth of God’s knowledge of each, His heart for each, His focus on each?

If this exercise has not yet astounded you, expand that number of individuals back in time to everyone who ever lived and forward to everyone yet to be born. Our ability to conceive of God’s great love is sorely limited, but God is limitless in His love for us.

In verses 5-8, in the face of his realization of the gap between God and man, David recognized how God has graciously honored us.

How has God honored man from Genesis 1:26 and John 1:12?

Genesis 1:26 NLT - 26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

John 1:12 NLT - 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.