

5.11.84. 25, 77 P.M. - WXRJ

"GOD'S GLORY AND MAN'S HONOR"

Psalm 8

INTRODUCTION:

David perhaps was out in the field with a flock of sheep, near the same fields by Bethlehem where the angels appeared with a chorus to the shepherds. Meditating upon the creation and upon God. He was reflecting upon the glory of God. And the Heavens, and upon nature. He found that nature was full of God. He was here remembering the glory of God. The great riches. He searches the Heavens. He searches the earth. These two ideas will be our key for this message. Searching the Heavens - V. 1-3. Searching the Earth - V. 4-7.

Men are ever searching for some riches for some treasure. On November 26, 1922, Howard Carter and a rich scholarly Lord Carnarvon opened a long lost tomb of the boy Pharaoh, that we call King Tut. He had been buried 3300 years before in the Egyptian valley of the kings. After the death of the 18 year old king, his child queen placed around his neck a floral collar. The corn flowers, lillies, and locust blossoms still retained a faint color when the grave was excavated.

It was the greatest archeological find of all times. The treasure alone represented the greatest single discovery of concentrated wealth. It required 10 years to simply record it and to move it to the Egyptian museum in Cairo. They found gold statues, chairs, and animals, golden thrones, set with precious stones. It revealed much about the life in Egypt 1350BC.

The discovery of King Tut's tomb fascinated the world and people today are still fascinated. It is one of the chief attractions of Egypt. A long search of historians and others were amply rewarded - it was something of paradise regained.

Now the writer of our Psalm describes here a great treasure, and when we go to

the book of Hebrews, he describes it, that the Psalmist was looking in on the position of Christ ~~with purchase for all believers~~. Even man is pictured here as a majestic being in the original plan. That God had planned something wonderful for man. And this 8th Psalm is quoted by Hebrews 2:6. And in Verse 7.

Let us look at this rich discovery which David made.

I. SEARCHING THE HEAVENS - V. 1-3

The poet Psalmist here is calling significant attention to a great discovery which he has made describing the majesty of God. And he does so in three ways.

1. First, glory in his (name) - V. (1). Who is God. He says how excellent is his name.

You want to notice here first V. 1 - that in the beginning, the Psalmist considered not man but God. He did not make the popular mistake of starting with man in his effort to understand man. ~~But~~ The thinker who starts with man will not get very far. If he starts with God, he will have the opportunity to see the whole divine pattern.

The glory of his name, oh Lord, our Lord is not repetition. The word Lord is the name of Jehovah. The second (Lord) is his title. Like we would say, President Washington. (Lord, Lord) speaks of the name and the title. And the Psalmist says both of these are very very excellent.

I read a small book recently which had ~~a whole~~ two pages of the names of Jesus. How excellent is his name. Lord, means (Jehovah), the self-existent one. The very name gives us the clue to what man is. That man is not self-sufficient. That the

sentinel from our Gods!

final authority is in the Lord alone.

*all grades of dignity & honor. Deity -
Most Holy Dignification*

Also, in this name is the meaning (master) Here is one who is master, high above all. Now much of our human reasoning exists on such principles of course, and that is the reason we are in the mess we are in because we do not give God the glory due to his name. This is very musical here. How plainly he displays his glory within himself. Oh Lord, our Lord. He is ours, for he made us and he protects us, and he takes special care of us. And how brightly God's glory shines even in his name. How excellent. How magnificent. Is his name in all of the earth.

Rom. 1:20 - ²³ This is the fault of man. He cannot see the divine revelation.

He says the glory of this name is (set above the Heavens). It is brightly shining in the upper world. Now this is something that is more excellent and more noble than anything we could think about here on this earth. That his glory, the problem of man is that we think of earth bound things. Man goes along feeling, ~~that~~, he can find the answers to these problems on the surface of the earth. But that is not what the Psalmist here is coming too. This is how wrong man can be because Jehovah, our Lord, in all of his glory, fills the Heavens. And that is something that the Psalmist discovered.

2 - (Second), there is glory in (his wisdom) - V. 2. David speaks here literally of children in Psalm 2. By the mouth of babes and infants, thou has founded a bulwark because of thy foes. To still the enemy and the avenger. "Out of the mouth of babes and suckings has thou ordained strength." We are able to discover God's strength in his dealings with men. The face of a little baby is a bulwark. Even enough to stand up against the folly of men and their corrupt hearts. In this magnificent world and the heavens, he recognizes God as glory and then he takes the

nature of a little child and paints a picture here as to how God absorbs the baby. So delicate and uncomplicated is a child. That lets you know what he is talking about and how he feels. A child can communicate to you and he can do so very effectively in his weakness.

Dr. Brisco says that a baby may be suffering from not enough moisture at one end and too much at the other - or wind in between. So if you ~~push~~ pushed it in, mop it up, burp it out, peace will reign.

So God through the mouth of babes can let us know that there are things basically simple. It is sad to say that we try to make things so complicated. If only men would stop getting so smart and so technical, they would save themselves a lot of trouble.

You know I suspect that there are many prominent (business men and executives) and others that hear more sense from their five year old son or daughter, than they do from people that they pay to advise them. A child has simple faith and God has ordained this strength. And here is a wisdom that can even defeat the enemies of mankind. And here is man who is fool enough to believe that all of these enemies are going to take him when they are not. I Cor. 1-27.

Triumph Ride - Children - Cry Hosanna to the Son of David -

In Matt. 21:16 - He talks about the things that are going to be used for praise and strength in the kingdom of God. God takes a little child - when he first comes into the world, he is the most helpless of all creatures. And gives that child special protection. And provides nature to care for it. That is instant goodness. And in his kingdom - he says, he is going to use even these to defeat the enemy. You know the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of the Messiah, came forth through a

baby. Acts 4:13. Hosanna to the son of David when he came into Jerusalem. He knew that the enemy was about to be defeated.

That though might still the enemy and the danger. David had admiration for the work of God, and he said that even God could use the simple speech of a child. When a crisis comes, the children have been great defenders of Christ's call.

George Whitfield was preaching in New England. A certain lady became a subject of grace. And a praying Christian. But she could not influence anyone to pray with her. But her little daughter, about 10 years of age, this little daughter daily prayed with her mother and witnessed her cries and tears. And she soon became the subject of divine grace. After that blessed experience she said, "oh mother, if all of the world knew this - I wish I could tell everybody!" Pray mother, let me go and tell all of the neighbors that they may be happy and love my Saviour too. "My dear child, said the mother, it would be useless. If you were to tell your experience, they would call it delusion. Oh Mother, I think they would believe me. I must go at once and tell the shoemaker. He will believe me. She ran over to his shop. She began telling him that he must die. That he and she were sinners, and that Christ had heard her mother's prayers, and had forgiven all of her sins. And now she was very happy. The shoemaker was struck. His tears flowed down like rain. He put aside his work and earnestly cried for mercy, as to alarm the neighborhood. In a few months from that time, about 50 people were brought to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Whitfield advertised in his preaching, he said, I cannot help but add several little boys and girls, who were fond of sitting around on the pulpit while I preached. And gave their hearts to the Lord.

In 1432, the Hussites threatened the city of Naumburg with destruction. The citizens says, lets take the children, clad them in mourning. And send them out as supplicants to the enemy. The enemy was very touched. And they supplied the children with fruit and they promised to spare the city. And the children came back with cherries crying victory. Often ambassadors to God and words for God, and prayers and tears of children - melt the enemy. Every house that has a child in it has a chaplain. Let us believe in the conversion of children to the Lord Jesus Christ.

3- Third, glory in (his work) - V. 3. "I consider thy heavens and the work of thy fingers - the moon and the stars." David looked around again and he said, as he searched the Heavens, he set his sights on that majestic work like the wisemen of old. And they received great insight from that. And our men today who are exploring the Heavens, one of them came back, from the moon trip - that he believed in God more now than he did before when he took off. He saw the order and the beauty and attributed all of this to a wonderful God. And the Psalmist looked into the Heavens and he searched and was very moved. Probably he looked and saw the moon. It must have been nighttime. He was working by the moon light. And he had been in full view of the moon and the stars.

It is our duty to consider the Heavens. We must consider the God of the Heavens. The work of his fingers, made them. He stretched them out with his word. Even the inferior lights - the moon and the stars show the glory and the power. These heavenly bodies that are subjected to his government. When we consider this, then we know something of the Lord of his power. There is something deep here as Bryum's familiar lines --

Pathless
There is a pleasure in the ~~pathless~~ woods
There is a rapture on the lonely shore

There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea and music in its roar,

I love not man less, but nature more,
From these our interviews in which I steal
For all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the universe and feel
What I can ^{Ne'er} ~~near~~ express, you cannot all conceal.

Nature in herself

Why the rivers that flow through the valleys
And the trees with all of their beauty
Tossed downward by the power of the wind
The field filled with daisies
The mountains that sometimes seem lonely and dreary
The stars that are bright and beautiful.

And are distances apart, and yet are lamps, that God has put up there! And what a wonderful thing the Psalmist, having this experience. Palestine with its charm, the mountains of Moab, the great sea to the West, the desert to the South. And the beautiful plains and the field of Galilee, covered with wild flowers. Here was everlasting glory. And look to the mountains, that mountain where Jerusalem is built. Where it seemed that he was considering the world as God had made an investment, in every sunrise and sunset, and every star that was visible in the Heavens. The beauty of all of this - caused him to wonder at the glory of his work.

Now the Psalmist turns his eyes in another direction. He has searched the Heavens, he has been somewhat in the presence, of God. And now we come to the second part.

Measure the greatness of God & the littleness of Man -

II. SEARCHING THE EARTH - V. 4

He asks a question - what is man. How would you answer that. The problem of man. He had been thinking about God, and now he is going to think about man awhile. And he wants to get that solved. Like Alice in Wonderland who walks up to a creature in a garden, and the lock was searching for something. Alice finally asked, for what are you searching? I am searching for something very important to me answered the lock. I am searching for the key to unlock myself. Now, that is a parable of what David has here in his individual search. He is searching for who he is, and why he is there. And probably where he is headed. He wants to identify himself - what is man. He says. What is mankind in general.

Now somebody has said that by the time a man reaches middle age, wherever middle-age may be, that if he has lived a normal life, he ^{will have} drinks 2,000 gallons of coffee, eaten some 2,000 steaks, and he probably has worn out some 90 pairs of shoes. And 50 suits of clothes. I dare not give an estimate of what it might be for a middle aged woman.

But the question that the Psalmist has now is, is the cause for which a person comes into the world. What is man. Why is he here. What is this all about. And who is he.

It is like somebody says, you take a chair. And then back away, and take a good

solid look at yourself. That is not easy. You study yourself in depth. I mean look at your person objectively. Look at yourself as others see you. Look at yourself from a critical point of view. And look at yourself as a man. Well, is a man just to wear clothes? Is my body nothing more than to just drape clothes on it. Well, clothes make the man. And the man is here for something. Evidently greater than that.

Is man for pleasure - is he here just to be wrapped up in a quest to satisfy himself. The prodigal son described in the Gospel of Luke, thought that pleasure was the thing and riotous living. He put no curb on his passions. And he went on to feed the swine.

What is man - is he just a number or a code? You go down to your bank and you say I want to know about me. And the banker will say what is your number. You go to the government, and they will say what is your number. Your social security number. Now, am I more than a number. Am I just like a big squirrel carrying my nuts to the bank, for the winter. That doesn't quite answer the thing, does it.

Am I just a physical appetite - there are times when I do feel hungry. It interests me sometimes when I get serious and I can go without food for quite awhile. Food is essential to life.

Is man just like an ape - now if a man came from a monkey, somebody said. We may have degenerated a little bit. For whoever heard of a monkey going out and getting drunk. And coming home and beating up his family. Whoever heard of a monkey lying and blaspheming God.

No, man is more than that.

What is man. Well, you have eyes that take 70,000 pictures a day and they are all in color.

You have a heart that beats 105,000 times a day. Resting just long enough between each beat, to pump blood through thousands of miles of arteries and veins.

The ear has more than 1500 keys - there are only 88 on a piano. The human body has a built-in repair system.

One man used to tell his son - if you fall down and skin your knees, I hope you don't tear your trousers. If you do, your mother will have to mend the trousers but your knee, will repair themselves.

A man has hands and they are fascinating. Then he has thumbs that operate. He can play a piano or a typewriter. Write with a pencil. Use a crayon. He has skin on the palm of his hands, that is ribbed and non-skid. You have the same kind of skin on your feet. Man is a marvelous creation. So the Psalmist says, - he hits this question, after he considers God - and then he says, what is man.

Now there are several things that David decided here while he was meditating here on God's glory and he was going to meditate on man's honor.

/ - First, he is honored by (mercy) - V. 4. He says, what is man. Thou art mindful of him. Now that tells you something. The Hebrew word here [mindful] means to remember. So God has put man here and is concerned with him in this universe. He has not forgotten you.

Now men try and tell us sometimes that we are the product of circumstances. The freak results of some unknown occurrences that happen.

Or that man just happened. But here the Scripture tells us that thou art mindful of man. And idolator thinks a man is inferior to birds and beasts. And falls down. A materialist thinks that man is just a chance product. And science sometimes think that he is made up of the blood of apes.

But man, as God made him, in the description here (gives man dignity) in Psalm 8. And David, the keeper of his father's sheep, on the very spot - who after years the heavenly choirs broke upon the shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. He expresses the emotions that must be in the heart of every devoted worshipper of God. The midnight heavens were there - he was studying the work of the fingers of God in the moon and the stars. And now he reflects upon man who is utterly unworthy to be compared to those wonderful wonders of the Heavens. He thinks of the character of man, sinful and he looks yonder and he sees the virgin snows that have never been defiled. The peace that will never change.

Four times in the Bible the question is asked (what is man) that thou art mindful of him. Ps. 144:3, Job 7:17-20, Ps. 8:4, and Heb. 2:6.

But here is an undeniable fact - The Psalmist says, that God is mindful of man - very mindful of him. There is no moment in man's existence that God has forgotten him. God cares for him. Just like a mother with a baby. She may leave the baby in the next room for a moment, but the slightest cry - she is quick to catch it. Here I am, poor and needy, and yet the Lord thinketh upon me. How precious are thy thoughts unto me, oh God.

2 Second, honored by sacrifice - V. 4. David said that thou (visited) him. Visiting. And no heart is so wayward, no life so hopeless - that God visits it. No one shall

read these lines, who has a path around his heart's door, who is not traveled by the Heavenly Father. He comes often and stands and knocks. And speaks to us in our sorrows. In our desires with his gentle mercy.

The word visit here might be better translated (care) for. It means to seek out that which is missing or lacking. And this idea carries the thought of God's (redemptive work) for man. If you find sufficient reason here - the maker of this universe was interested in man. In that he sent his own son to be born of a virgin and come down and visit man.

How wonderful indeed is this Scripture. It speaks of the incarnation. Cradle

3. Third, honored by (position) - V. 5. For thou hast made man a little lower than the angels. And crowned him with glory and honor.

But here is sinful man - a child of Satan. And God proposes to restore him. There is no Scripture that teaches us that we will ever become an angel. But the Bible declares that we will become a child of God. Not a little lower of God, but a child in the family of God. Rom. 8:17. Now to accomplish this, God being mindful, visited you in the person of his son Jesus Christ. So what is man being a little lower than God. He is under divine direction.

Now Heb. 2:6-8 quotes this passage in Psalms and speaks of man's dignity. A little lower than God. Now this teaches us that not only God made us - but it teaches us the position that we have. Slightly lower than the angels. That is a whole lot better - than slightly better than an ape. We need to get this straight.

Here is God, angels, man, animals - and then vegetation. So this is the operation of God. Being in the Heavens.

God has equipped this man in the image of God. He made us superior to all of the other earthly creatures. And man is skillfully and wonderfully made and equipped for fellowship with God.

Some have translated this (a little less than God) God highest ambition for man as he emphasizes. He has crowned man with glory and honor. So here is the honor which he gives. He is honored by mercy. He is honored by a sacrifice. He is honored by a position.

4 Fourth, he is honored by authority. V. 6-8. So God has honored him with glory, dominion, position, authority. V. 6, he says, that all things have been put under him. He is going to have dominion over the works upon this earth. He visited the human race. God has given him a high role in his plan, to have dominion over all of his works. And the Psalmist lists some of the things that God has put under his feet. It is hard to know exactly what happened in the beginning. We probably will never know this side of Heaven, exactly how God worked it out, how long it took him, and what methods he used. One thing is very clear, that he placed man here to develop and explore in this earth. And man began to set out and he is still subduing. He makes roads, builds bridges, houses, cities. Explores the wilderness. He finds cures for diseases. Man has come a long way and he is still subduing. Man has found out everything he can handle except himself. Without man, this world would be worse. And without man in some ways, it would be better off. There would be no war, no heartaches, no pollution, no crying. But without man, there would be no art, music, and the joys which we have. Beautiful diamonds, newborn babies. All of these things.

The sheep, the oxen, the beast of the field, everything on the land. The fowl of the air. Everything in the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the sea. All of these to be under his authority.

So David has searched the heavens and the earth. He has found God's glory and man's honor.

5 Fifth, honored by worship V. 9.

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! The Psalm begins and ends with a choral refrain." And they say that this theme was often used in the autumn at the festival of reconsecration of the Jerusalem sanctuary. The worshippers revealed their admiration to the creator and to his condemned glory.

Jesus quoted to those in the temple, to those who had the views of the temple, and he says have you not read - out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou perfected praise. What we have been saying might be illustrated in George Washington Carver. Years ago he said, "I went into my laboratory and said. Dear Mr. Creator, tell me what the universe was made of and made for. The great creator answered, you want to know too much. For that little mind of yours, asked for something far more your size. Then, I asked, Dear Mr. Creator, tell me what man was for. Again, the great creator replied, little man, you still are asking too much. Cut down the extent of your request and improve the intent."

Then I asked, please Mr. Creator, will you tell me why the peanut was made. That is better. But even the peanut is infinite, you know. What do you want to know about the peanut.

Mr. Creator, can I make milk out of the peanut? What kind of milk do you want.

Good Jersey milk, or just plain boarding house milk. Good Jersey milk, sir.
And then the Creator taught me how to take the peanut apart. And put it together
again.)

Thus, man is a noble creature of dignity. When he uses all of his faculties
← man can take some horse hair and a cat gut and a piece of wood and make a violin.
And it will play lovely music. It has been done for centuries. Or man can take
a few instruments that he has made and perform delicate surgical operations on his
fellow man.

Man does not have an option. He is a man. Now how good a man he will be is up
to him by free choice. Life comes to us a day at a time. I wonder if you will accept
what David discovered here. As he searched the Heavens and searched the earth - and
finally completed - oh Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth.
Have you acknowledged him. No man is promised a certain span of life. And it is
important and clear as Joshua road - chose ye this day whom ye will serve. What will
be your answer. Will you say, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.