|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  Psalm 8 Sermon Outline  07/21/24  “Majesty In Weakness”  **INTRO:**  Story of Gideon  Gideon = bravest man of Bible…Nooottt  = opposite of brave  Went by night instead of day to cut down idols  When attacking camp of Midian, whittle down army to 300 who lapped water like a dog  Properly trained soldier = wouldn’t drink water like that  Actual assault = they didn’t do anything except shout and break some pots  Odd story until realize weaker man is = better God can glorify His power | 2  Story shows you God is the one will do it, even if it’s through foolish and cowardly men  **MAIN THEME:**  That is what our passage is all about:  “That God rules in majesty over entire earth, and that in creation his majestic rule is particularly magnified through weak creatures”  This world values and desires raw displays of power and looks down on weakness and humility  But God doesn’t operate that way  He operates the opposite of what the world values  Specifically in this passage for note takers God majestically shows His rule in creation through  1. Babies vv. 1-2  2. Humanity vv. 3-9  Babbling babies and humanity |
| 3  **CONTEXT:**  Important to know Ps. 8 between Ps. 1-7 and 9-14 = for a reason  Pss. 1 + 2 = problem of evil and promise of Messiah to triumph over it  Pss. 3-7 = David’s suffering and oppression and persecution = how will David be vindicated?  Also Pss. 9-14 similar oppressed by powerful kings = needy and poor  Ps. 8 = answers “how God is going to triumph and vindicate rule and reign over evil”  **BODY:**  Inspired word of God starts with “*For the choir director. According to the Gittith. A psalm of David*”  Different genres and forms = Scripture  Psalms = wisdom literature for worship | 4  “Gittith” = nobody really knows  = city of Gath = Philistines  = some instrument (maybe stringed) or musical notation that originated in Gath  So with that in mind come to first way God shows His majestic rule in creation = that is through babbling babies  “*O Yahweh, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who displays Your splendor above the heavens!  From the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have established strength because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease*.”  David starts off with = character of God  God’s fingerprints are all over His creation  General revelation in creation should leads you not to deny His existence but to worship Him and to give Him praise |
| 5  It should lead you conclude: “How could this be anything but God’s work?”  Utter foolishness/madness to see this all as some cosmic accident  Many atheists say = universe was created through some chemical process and we happened to be created and come from slime and sludge  “*You display your splendor above the heavens!*”  When Solomon built first temple for God to dwell in, he knew God could not be contained  1 Kgs. 8:27  “*But will God truly dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built*!”  Then Ch. 8:2 = odd contrast make you scratch your heads | 6  He brings up babies  “*From the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease*.”  So God displays His power and majestic rule through goo goo gaa gaa of babies?  David: God is so powerful and so majestic that if He wants to He can wipe out entire armies with the babblings of a baby  Making contrast with most powerful being with weakest being  With most independent being in universe (“Yahweh”) with most dependent and helpless being  Plus God would accomplish and confirm the deity and identity of the Messiah in Matthew 21 when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey |
| 7  “*Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest*!”  Pharisees got really upset  Told Jesus to silence them  In response Jesus made the Pharisees cease  Pharisees = enemy and revengeful one  Whether it’s through powerful king or a baby, God will show His majestic rule and greatness  In fact, the more despised something is by the world God will use it all the more to confound those who think they are something  To an athlete like a track star. If he beats everyone in a hundred meter sprint not with sprinting shoes and cleats but with boots, a heavy rain coat, carrying a 50 pound backpack on him, then His greatness is magnified even more in the fact that He chose to use less than ideal conditions to outrun the best of them | 8  God is not restrained by His creation  Created everything out of nothing = surely He can  as John the Baptist said = make inanimate objects like rocks come alive and scream His praise  Disciples Matt. 18 “*who is the greatest in the kingdom*” he took child and said  “*unless you become like one of these, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven*”  Not in prideful self-esteem/self-exaltation  But…  **TRANSITION:**  That is not only way God displays His majestic rule in creation  Primary way shows majestic rule = humanity |
| 9  From verses 3-9. Verse 3:  “*When I see Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have established; What is man that you remember him, And the son of man that You care for him*?”  Possible that David wrote this psalm while he was still young shepherd = countless nights gazing up at sky  ILLUST:  LA = you can’t see starry sky because of lights and smog  Lake Isabella = Heidi’s family’s second home = you can see the stars  Used app to scan sky and see start systems  When you see the endless vastness of space and how we only know a fraction of what’s out there = you start to see how insignificant we are, how tiny we are | 10  That we are just one planet floating in a universe of billions of plants  Alpha Centauri = started traveling from star system to planet earth = 4 years ago  Isn’t that crazy?  If you try sending message from Alpha Centauri to earth through radio wave at speed of light = 186,000 miles per second = 4 hours to send that message to earth  That’s why verse 4  “*What is man that You remember him, And the son of man that You care for him?”*  Man = enosh = mortal  Son of man = son of the “earth” = dust  Ecc. 3:20 “*All go to the same place. All came from the dust, and all return to the dust*.” |
| 11  Yet, despite our insignificance David says v. 5 =  “*You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You crown him with glory and majesty*!”  angels = lit. heavenly beings  Some trans. Prefer = little lower than “God!”  David does allude to Gen. chap. 1 creation of man = being made in image of “God”  I believe correct trans. = “angels” because Heb. Ch. 2 = uses Septuagint trans. of Ps. 8  = annggelos (angels) = heavenly beings  Angels = also majestic in glory as ones who reflect glory of God who act as His emissaries and messengers  Next closest thing to God as spiritual beings  David praise God saying, you have made us not barely above the animals, but barely below the angels! | 12  Unlike angels = you have created in Your image and likeness!  God didn’t tell the angels in Gen. 1 to rule and subdue creation = but humans!  Heb. 2:5 similarly says,  “*For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking, but one has testified somewhere, saying*”  …and then he quotes Psalm 8.  No, He gave that command to humans!  And that’s what David says in verse 6,  “*You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet*; *all sheep and oxen, and also the animals of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas*.” |
| 13  Adam and Eve created to be vice-regents over creation  Tasked to rule and subdue earth  But do you notice something is wrong?  Something is not quite right about verse 6  All things have not been subjected to man  Adam and Eve failed and everyone else has failed as a result  World is plagued = deadly pestilence, famine, countless diseases, tsunamis, earthquakes, even wild lethal animal attacks that take countless lives every year  Try sticking your hand in a cobra’s nest and not be bitten  Try to stay alive in a river where Hippopotamus’ are | 14  Heb. 2 says this:  “*For in subjecting all things to him (that is to man), He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.* Verse 9 *But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels-Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone*.”  Jesus = eternal Son of God = took on human nature with human body = to be Son of man = a son of the earth so that He would fulfill where Adam and Eve failed in their creation mandate  More than that, He became dust so that He would raise us up from the dust  He did it not by raw displays of power, not by overthrowing the current Roman government but by humbling Himself to the point of death  By serving others and giving His life a ransom for many |
| 15  So that He will enable you to triumph over sin and death  And while we do not yet see all things subjected to Him Heb. 2:8  one day Christ will come again to subject all things under His feet  When new heavens/new earth are established from east to west, from north to south all will be filled with the glory of the Lord as God intended back in the Garden  But the way to get to those kingdom conditions is through laying down your own life for the gospel  It is by dying to self and counting others as more important than yourself  It is by having child-like trust in who God is and in what He has said | 16  He tasted death for everyone so that you wouldn’t have to taste death  Mystery of how God rules universe is shown through the weakest, most despised things of this world  The weaker something is, the more God will be able to display His power and His glory to the world  So don’t boast in your strength, but boast in your weaknesses as Paul said because that is how God’s rule and reign is extended in the universe  So I close with 1 Cor. Chapter 1  “*For consider your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may abolish the things that are, so that no flesh may boast before God.* |
| 17  *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord*”…  “*O Yahweh, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth*!”  Benediction: Psalm 150:3-6  *“Praise Him with trumpet blast; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with tambourine and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. Praise Him with resounding cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise Yah.*  *Praise Yah!”* | 18 |