

Psalm 8

Made to Know Majesty

When was the last time that you were left awe struck, speechless? We live in a digital age and what that often means is that there is not much that we have not seen. Some things that I have seen I wish that I had never seen. With those things that we see we can become a culture that is hard to impress, but there are a few things that no matter how desensitized you may think you are to them they absolutely take your breath away. Have you ever had a moment like that? I have had several perhaps the first that I can remember was here I was preparing myself to be married, hearing everyone telling me, "just wait till those doors open up and you see her." I was prepared for the moment, has just practiced the night before, but when those doors opened and I saw the love of my life adorned in pure white preparing to walk down that aisle and make a declaration of her love to me for the rest of our life I was left breathless. And the closer she came to me down that church aisle, the faster my heart began to beat.

The Bible says that you and I were created for an eternal moment just like that one moment where we are absolutely awe struck by something so great and glorious, someone so beautiful. We were created to know majesty for all eternity, for our finite lives to be consumed in eternity as our God receives us and makes us his very own.

So today from Psalm 8 I want us to talk to you about the majesty of God and tell you that you were made to know majesty.

READ TEXT

The whole point of passages like this is to pull back the veil to give us a glimpse of the majesty of God; to show that there is no one like our God. How can anyone read Psalm 8 and not have a sense of being overwhelmed? To think that there is a God in heaven who has created us, shown us great love, and also desires us to share in his love for all eternity? Just by reading the Psalm can you feel the weight of glory, can you see his majesty? 3 truths this AM that tell the story of his majesty and our knowing his majesty:

1. God is Majestic

As we begin it is important for us to not miss the context. Since Psalm 3 we have been in the pits of despair. But we have learned that there is no pit that is out of the reach of his love. Psalm 1-2 set the paradigm of the world, the hope of the world, and Psalms 3-7 tell the struggle that we face due to this world being out of balance. So Psalm 2 and Psalm 8 serve as brackets around the struggle in this world. The trouble sandwiched between glory, with glory outlasting the trouble. Just as the waves of the troubles of this world was going to be over our heads, just as the hope of Psalm 1 and 2 seemed out of reach, our good God, who loves us with a love that will not easily let us go, reaches out to us, pulling us away from despair, and consumes us with his greatness.

The Psalms tell a story of his majesty. Everything in our life, all the heights and bumps, every laugh and tear, all drawing us to his majesty. All the questions that we face, all the concerns that we have in this life are swallowed up when we consider his absolute greatness. Our struggles are brought to nothing when he lifts us up to stand at the summit of his majesty. Think about it. If you have pain he takes away pain, if you are lost, he is the way, if you are in the dark, he is the light of the world, if you are bound, he is freedom, if you are in grief, he is comfort, if you are weary and heavy laden, he is the rest for your souls. If you want better, he's the greatest! There is no one like him. He is absolutely majestic!

I want to labor on this point because I am afraid that too often we neglect the majesty of God. Most of us have lost our vision of the majestic splendor of the greatness of God. Instead we are underwhelmed by his majesty. I am afraid that the reason that you as church members are underwhelmed by majesty is there are few from behind pulpits that are overwhelmed by his majesty. I get inundated each week by emails encouraging me how to lead this church. Most of them lack the impression of majesty.

Why do I get emails like this? Because most of us cherish thoughts of ourselves. Some may have even wished as they came to this service today, secretly in the back of their minds, to hear a message about themselves. Most would never admit to that but at the heart of it all most of you came today with your preferences and your preferences are filled with yourself instead of his majesty. A person that is consumed with his majesty has only one concern - give me Jesus. Why? Because we know we are more flawed than we dare think but more loved by Him than we can even imagine.

I think about this when I preach, am so overwhelmed with this thought when I preach. What impression am I seeking to leave with you? Do I desire you to say "What a great preacher", or "What

a mighty God?" A great preacher is a majestic preacher. Majestic not on his own account but because he is taking his congregation each week in his sermon to see the lofts of the absolute greatness of God.

Think about it: If you have seen something so absolutely grand as the majesty of God how could anything else captivate your thought? If there is anything else that captivates your thoughts then the answer must be that you have not yet been confronted by his majesty. Thankfully Psalm 8 is here lest we get too overwhelmed by underwhelming thoughts, we are left overwhelmed with the highest thought - The majesty of God.

Do you read people or listen to people who give you the great sense of the limitless majesty of God? Read the Puritans, read Whitfield, Calvin, Luther, Augustine, Athanasius, Tozer, Packer, Piper, and you will get a sense of how much of your life is underwhelmed by the overwhelming greatness of God.

If I were to come up to a person on the street or even you this morning and ask, "What' the first thing that you think about when you think about God?" Most of the answers, I imagine, would lack a sense of majesty. Instead the answers reduce God to a personal God.

Listen close, there is everything wrong with the view of God as personal is it is not coupled with his majesty. This Psalm is a testimony to that point - His majesty is the greatest, there is none higher, none greater than him!

Here is the danger that I am trying to let you see - when you think of him only in personal terms you risk reducing him to being like you. Instead of us trying to be like him we end up trying to reduce him to us. He is not like us. We don't want a God in our image we want a God that fashions us according to his image.

Before we move on, I want to take you to a passage of Scripture that illustrates how lofty his majesty is. Isaiah 40:9-31. Listen to these words.

Here is the point, if God is majestic then he must be supreme in our lives. Why do we worry, why do we struggle with bitterness, unforgiveness, lust, greed, anger? We have not yet let all of our heart be embraced the majesty of God! All of our life will be spent embracing his majesty because there is nothing else for us except his majesty. The Westminster Shorter Catechism starts by saying, "The

chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” At the heights of our greatest pursuit we find God. At the end of ourselves we find his beginning.

But lest we go too far into thinking that his majesty means he is inaccessible or that he is unapproachable we see the first line of Psalm 8. - *O LORD, **OUR** Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

2. God is our God

This majestic God is *our* God. Our God is the greatest, strongest, highest, and most capable, he alone is worthy. Such thoughts are too lofty for us but yet we are the ones who are capable of seeing his majesty, knowing his majesty.

God has created us to enjoy his majesty.

This Psalm is a counterbalance to a worldview that looks up into the heavens and sees emptiness and loneliness. We are not alone in the universe, the God who created the vastness of time and space has determined before he created all that is seen to know your name and to love you! When we look towards the sky we are not to be left with a thought of loneliness, we are to be left with an awesome sense of awe that this God who could do whatever he wanted chose to create and love you!

Abraham Lincoln said, “I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.” What is even more surprising than that is that we can look up into the heavens and say the one who put the milky in the Milky Way that is my Father.

This language in this text is Genesis 1 and 2 language. Let’s go back there for just a moment. Genesis 1 and 2 are so familiar to us that we can lose our sense of wonder and amazement. Don’t do that! One of the greatest truths of all time is confessed in those two chapters. That the majestic God has created. The very first words of Scripture let us know that His majesty is not inaccessible - he desires to be known. Listen to John Stott in his book *Basic Christianity*, “Before man existed, God acted. Before man stirs himself to seek God, God has sought man. In the Bible we do not see man groping after God; we see God reaching after man.” (*Basic Xianity, 13*)

I want to point something out for you from Genesis 1 and 2. Let's look at the sixth day in 1:24. We see the beasts created after their kind but whose kind is man created?

Man is made in the image of God. What does this mean?

Man is capable of relationship with God. What kind of relationship? Look in chapter 2:7 - a close intimate relationship.

This God of Genesis 1 who spoke the world into existence is the same God that has personally invites us into his fellowship. He is OUR God meaning that we who confess Him are the ones who get it right. Something so profound and majestic and yet so simple that even a child can know him. Why? Because He has chosen to make us his very own and created heaven and earth for this purpose.

But there is one final point that we need to make this morning from this Psalm.

3. God's Majesty Will Forever Be Known

The Bible does not end with Genesis 2. The splendor of man walking with God is interrupted in Genesis 3 by an enemy. This is why the latter part of Psalm 8:2 is here. But listen to it, the language of the enemy is not very loud, only a fading whisper. Genesis 3 is there but there is something greater that ends the story - the Serpent crushing King of Psalm 1-2 is mentioned in Genesis 3:16 and again we are reminded of his victory here. And the Bible ends with a promise of his coming bringing all of his majesty and filling the earth.

We read about Man's dominion in Psalm 8:5-8 and we see a world where man is not even in dominion of himself - we obey our own passions that lead us astray. We long for one to come and reestablish the dominion given and thankfully he has come, the King of Psalm 2 that is coming is also the King that has already come - Jesus! Born of a woman, tempted by the serpent in a desert and did not fail!

Jesus is the summation of the salvation of God. Jesus has come in the midst of all of our chaos, in the midst of great struggle to let our eyes that had only dreamt of beauty, had only heard stories of glory, to open our blinded eyes and give us sight. God is majestic, the world may not know it but they will know it one day because he is majestic and nothing will ever change his majesty!

Listen to the way that the author of Hebrews balances this: - Starts with the promise, the hope

- Then takes us to majesty
- Then shows us that the majesty of God will forever be known in all the earth (Chapter 2)

Now here is the question that we have to ask. Is there anything more glorious, more beautiful, more majestic than God? Is there any greater comfort than knowing that this God is OUR God? His glory outlast all others and will remain forever. Will you remain with him, safe with him, or will you choose to live away from him? Who would want to? Know his majesty today, delight in his majesty, and turn to him. Sing Psalm 8 and mean it.