

Perfecting Praise from Imperfect Sources - Psalm 8

A Spot in a Grouping

- **Volume One of Psalms** starts with 1–2, an introduction.
- **First "Collection" in Volume One** is 3–14, with Psalm 8 as a **"pivot point"** in the middle.
 - **Psalms 3–7**: David is powerless and calling out for protection, deliverance, forgiveness, etc. There is a note of despair and hope in differing measures.
 - **Psalm 8**: Shows the power and work of God, using the most unusual things (babies, animals, etc.) to glorify Himself.
 - **Psalms 9–14**: "Poor and afflicted ones" call out for vindication.

A Veiled Prophecy of the Messiah

- **Messianic Psalm**: Direct fulfillment in its day, but ultimately tied to the work of Christ (the Messiah). He will be a man who is put low and lifted to great exaltation. His work, power, and authority are described with phrases from this Psalm repeatedly.
- Many passages here are quoted of Christ (see "How God Viewed This Psalm" section below).

See the Progression

1. Praise to the Lord who is so much more glorious than anything on this earth. (v. 1)
 2. You're praised from the most unusual place. (v. 2)
 3. Why do you even think about man? (vv. 3–4)
 4. You've given glory to the lowly thing that is man. (vv. 5–8)
 5. That's amazing! (v. 9)
- **This Psalm starts and stops at the same point** – a **chiasm** (symmetrical structure centering on God's care for humanity).

See the Application from What We've Already Studied

1. God gives David a kingdom when he's a shepherd.
2. God spares David when he sins.
3. God preserves David in exile.
4. God restores David, despite everything he's done – because God is a good, merciful God.

See the Power of God

- **How does Romans 3:23 tie into this?**
 - Think specifically of sin meaning "**missed the mark**".
 - Think specifically of "**all have... fallen short...**".
- **How does Hebrews 1:7 tie into this?**
 - Think specifically of "**flame of fire**" being contrasted with "**eternal**".
 - In God's eyes, how long do even the angels last?
 - This is a direct quote from **Psalms 104:4**, but note how God refers to His angels.
Why is this significant?
- **Read Hebrews 1:8–12:** How long does the Son's reign last? *Why is this comforting?*
- **How does Psalm 104 tie into this?** This has been referred to as "**providential intimacy**".
 - What are some of the things God does to sustain the earth?
 - Why are these things praiseworthy?
- **How does Psalm 110 tie into all this?**

See the Mercy of God

- **Mercy** is unmerited (unearned) favor.
- **What are some examples of God giving "unearned" favor in these passages?**
 - Verse 2:

 - Verse 4:

 - Verse 5:

 - Verse 6:

- Notice what God seems especially "**proud**" of creating.
- What other passages would show God's favor regarding humanity?
- Why does God care so much for humanity?
- How should we respond to God favoring us in such a way?

How God Viewed This Psalm

Psalm 8 Verse	NT Quote	Key Insight
v. 2	Matt 21:16	Praise from the weak silences opposition
vv. 4–6	Heb 2:6–8	Christ's humanity restores human dominion
v. 6	1 Cor 15:27; Eph 1:22	All creation submits to the exalted Son