

A person wearing a red jacket and a dark hat is sitting on a rocky ledge at night. A lantern is lit on the ledge next to them, casting a warm glow. In the background, there are dark, jagged mountain peaks under a dark blue sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Psalms

## The Book of Praises

### Lesson 24

## The Creation Psalms

# Review

- Original title of this book?
  - Sepher Tellihim – book of praises
- Who was the earliest writer?
  - Moses
- Other writers?
  - David, Sons of Korah, Solomon, Asaph, Heman
- How many books make up the psalms?
  - Five

# Categories of Psalms

- **P**raise
- **S**ongs of Thanksgiving
- **A**ssurance
- **L**aments
- **M**essianic
- **S**ongs of Instruction
- Ascent
- Penitence
- Acrostic
- Historical
- Imprecatory

# Some Selected 'Lessons for Today'

- See an exuberance on the part of the psalmist that should also be ours
- To the righteous, God's omniscience is not a fearful thing but a source of comfort.
- How blessed we are to have the complete revelation – David had only a small portion of it, yet look how he magnified the word
- It is often in life's darkest moments that we are reminded of our great need for God.
- Do not put your trust in men or you will be disappointed; thanks be to God that He can always be trusted. (Psa. 116:11)

# Some Selected 'Lessons for Today'

- The prophecies we find in the Messianic Psalms are a significant part of the internal evidence proving the Scriptures are from God.
- A thankful attitude is so much needed today. Let us teach our children and grandchildren to be thankful.
- Often, our lives are too hurried. Slow down; make time for study; meditate on God's word.
- Remember that this life is a pilgrimage; the way may be difficult, but a better life awaits.
- History teaches that God is faithful to His promises and to His people.
- Imprecations should be resorted to with the utmost of discretion in our days.



# The Creation Psalms

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.” (19:1)*

*“O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, You who set Your glory above the heavens!” (8:1)*

- These proclaim the glory, the majesty, and the beauty of His creation
- Nature shouts aloud for all to hear, ‘there IS a God, and it is He that sustains all we see.’

# Lessons for Today

- Mankind is the crowning glory of God's creation, and He has placed man over the creation. Do we realize this important responsibility and take it seriously?
- All of nature declares that 'there is a God.' Do we pay attention to this message that is voiced by all of His creation?
- God's work of creation was only the beginning; He continues to uphold all things through His providential care.

# Psalm 8

- A psalm of David; dedicated to the Chief Musician
- “God’s glory revealed in man’s dignity” (Leupold)
- Primarily a hymn of praise
- God has created all things and is over all things
  - Shows man’s exalted position by giving him dominion over all
- Also, contains some Messianic prophecies, which we discussed in Lesson 13 (vv. 2, 4-5)



# Psalm 8

- V. 1

- A general note of praise; recognized in all the earth

- V. 2

- God's defense set forth by the simple, innocent babe

- Vv. 3-4

Q1. What is the point of verses 3 and 4?

- He who made all things has busied Himself with the little being called mortal man
- God is one who condescends to our simple lives

# Psalm 8

- V. 5

Q3. According to verse 5, man is made a little lower than what? Look at different versions to see how this is translated.

- NKJV – “a little lower than the angels”
- ESV – “a little lower than the heavenly beings”
- NASV – “a little lower than God”
- CSB – “little less than God”
- ‘elohim’ in Hebrew – meaning a divine being
- Translated ‘sons of God’ in Gen. 6:2; Job 1:6
- Man was placed so high on the scale of created beings (for he himself is in the very image of God) that “man lacks but little of the ‘elohim’ (whatever that may mean)”

# Psalm 8

- Vv. 6-8

Q2. What does man have dominion over? Do we recognize this responsibility and fulfill it? What actions might show contempt for such responsibility?

- All the works of God's hands
- What actions could show contempt?
  - Abusing what we've been blessed with
  - Not being good stewards of the land
  - Irresponsible use of our resources
- We have an important responsibility of stewardship
- V. 9 – closes as it began – with praise
- Our God is a wise, all-powerful, yet condescending creator

# Psalm 19

“In his earliest days, [David] while keeping his father’s flock had devoted himself to the study of God’s two great books – nature and Scripture; and he had so thoroughly entered into the spirit of these two only volumes in his library, that he was able with a devout criticism to compare and contrast them, magnifying the excellency of the Author as seen in both. ... He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, ‘My Father wrote them both.’”

(Charles Spurgeon)

# Psalm 19

Q4. In verses 1-6, what are the various things that can be observed? What are they all teaching or declaring?

- The heavens, the firmament, day, night, and sun's rising, circuit & heat
- Teach the glory of God and His handiwork
- Notice how it 'speaks:' heavens declare, day utters speech, night reveals
- A universal language and universally heard
- There can be no doubt ... There is a God!



# Psalm 19

- V. 1
  - “The heavens are telling the glory of God” (Lexham)
  - By their very beauty & magnitude they declare they are the work of the omnipotent Creator
  - God (v. 1) – “El” – the Almighty; Strong One
  - Used because this is a truth that should be apparent even to the heathen (Rom. 1:19-21)
- Vv. 2-3
  - “The very existence of day and night in the form in which they function is so remarkable as to tell about their Maker.” (Leupold)
  - Each day is seen to tell the next day of His glory; this uninterrupted message continues through the ages



# Psalm 19

- V. 4
- “Line” here is a measuring line; it marks the limits of possession – thus influence
  - The declaration from these things bears influence throughout the entire earth
- The sun’s influence
  - “Tabernacle” – tent or dwelling place
  - The sun has its place of residence in the heavens
  - The glory of the sun reflects the glory of its Maker
- V. 5
  - Two figures: a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and a strong man running his race

# Psalm 19

- V. 5 cont.
  - “A bridegroom comes forth sumptuously appareled, his face beaming with a joy which he imparts to all around; such, but with a mighty emphasis, is the rising Sun. As a champion girt for running cheerfully addresses himself to the race, so does the sun speed onward with matchless regularity and unwearying swiftness.”  
(Spurgeon)
- V. 6
  - The vastness of the course of the sun and its influence over great distances
  - The wonder of the sun declares in great fashion that there is a God
  - Truly speaks to our benevolent creator

# Psalm 104

- Major theme or message of this psalm?
  - God's superlative greatness, and praise for God's providential care
- Tone or emotion of it?
  - Incredible gladness (vv. 1, 33-35)
- Any other impression this psalm leaves you with?
  - Life! Everything is alive and vibrant
  - God is the benevolent keeper of the garden. Extending His hand to provide and care for all these creatures.

Q5. In reading this psalm, do you see a lot of chaos in nature? Elaborate on what you see.

- No, quite the contrary ... order, providence, pattern

# Psalm 104

Q6. Review from Lesson 2 how this psalm parallels the days of creation.

- 1st day – 2a - light
- 2nd day – 2b-4 – divided heavens above from waters beneath
- 3rd day – 5-12 – land and sea; 13-18 – vegetation (and incidental attention to the 6th day – animals as they are fed by that vegetation)
- 4th day – 19-23 – sun, moon, and stars
- 5th day – 24-26 – sea creatures

# Psalm 104

Q7. What is the message of verses 27-30?

- Absolute dependence of all these creatures on God
- The Lord upholds all things
- He created all things in the beginning. But His work was not done. His care continues for this creation, and He provides for all creatures.
- *“...through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power ...”* (Hebrews 1:1–3, NKJV)
- *“... Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!”*

# Lessons for Today

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Psalm 8 To the tune “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth,  
How majestic is Your name!  
Far above the heavens' height,  
You have magnified Your fame.  
From the mouths of nursing babes  
You have lifted up Your praise,  
And Your glory will defeat  
All who fight against Your ways.



G – 4/4 - Sol↓

Psalm 8 To the tune “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

When I lift my eyes above,  
To the skies Your fingers made,  
Gazing on the moon and stars –  
All, Your handiwork displayed,  
Then I wonder, “What is man,  
That You keep him in Your mind?  
What, indeed, a son of man,  
That You care for humankind?”

*by Matt Bassford*

## Psalm 8

To the tune “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Lower for a little while  
Than the ones who see Your face,  
Honor, majesty, and power  
Now have crowned him by Your grace.  
Over every living thing  
His dominion is the same;  
Lord, our Lord, throughout the earth,  
How majestic is Your name!

*by Matt Bassford*