

J.J.

AMAZED BY GOD

Psalms 8

INTRODUCTION :

Story : A 12 year old boy named David was born without an immune system. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in order to correct the deficiency. Up to that point he had spent his entire life in a plastic bubble in order to prevent exposure to common germs, bacteria, and viruses that could kill him. He lived without ever knowing human contact. When asked what he'd like to do if and when released from his protective bubble, he replied, "I want to walk barefoot on grass, and touch my mother's hand."

Today, we are given the privilege to walk barefoot on grass and to touch another person's hands. **So before we start, let's go around and hug another person and "you are amazing because....."**

Now, let's say to the one beside you, "God is amazing because..."

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. A psalm of David.

¹ *LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

² *Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

³ *When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*

⁴ *what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels^[e]
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

⁶ *You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:*

⁷ *all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,*

⁸ *the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

⁹ *LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Pray

Note : Immediately, there are two things you are sure about this Psalm.
"A Psalm of David."

1. It is written by David.
2. It is meant to be sung

To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. (according to gittith in other translations)

Note : “Gittith” is an obscure Hebrew word which could either mean a musical instrument or a musical cue.

Note : In order to interpret the Psalms, you have to take into consideration the genre. The genre is “poetry”. Poetry is different from instruction or information. Most of the time, poetry is done in order to express a feeling –whether it is a feeling of love, praise, or sometimes, anger or sadness (as in the deprecatory Psalms) toward someone or something.

In this case, David is obviously expressing his feeling of delight and amazement to the Lord.

In short : He is just letting out the overflow of what’s inside his heart.

Illustration : If you allow me to indulge myself, I remember when my wife and I were still dating, I wouldn’t want the date to end but we had to go home and when I reach home, I still have to write her a letter because my heart was full of love and delight for her.

This is what David is doing. He was expressing his delight and amazement to God.

As Jesus said :

Matthew 12:34 For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Note : A man who is full of delight and amazement to God will always be thanking and praising God.

So now, what is David amazed about?

I. AMAZED BY GOD’S GLORY.

1.) David is amazed by God’s intrinsic worth.

That’s why David writes

¹ *LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is **your name** in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

Etymology : majestic; great; excellent “adiyr”

Note : Most of the time our “worth” is measured by what we do or by what we have. It is external. But God’s worth is intrinsic. His name itself connotes excellence. It means, He is worthy not because of what He did but because of who He is.

Illustration : When you hear the name Steve Jobs, you would know, people will praise him because he’s the man who’s responsible for Ipod or Iphone or your Apple computer. His worth is connected with what he did.

But in the 1970s, when someone says the name, “Steve Jobs”, people will say, “Who’s he?” Steve Job’s worth is not intrinsic. His glory is connected to what he did.

God deserves to be praised because He is great, majestic and excellence because of who He is.

2.) David is amazed by God’s external works.

Note : Of course, David is not only amazed of who God is but He is also amazed of what He does.

In short : If a being is intrinsically glorious or amazing, ALL His works will be definitely glorious or amazing.

Example : If you see the talent of a kid is in music, his works in music will definitely be great.

What are the works of God that are amazing?

a.) His saving works

*² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger*

In order to understand this, let’s see how our Lord Jesus Himself used this verse:

*Matthew 21: ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant ¹⁶ and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?”
And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read,
‘ Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have perfected praise’?”*

Note : It was the children crying out “Hossana...” Hossana means “Save us Lord”.

In short : The children were acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah, the one who came to save.

Illustration : Why is Michael Jordan great? It’s not because of his acrobatic acts. A lot of basketball player does that. It’s not because of his dunks. The dunks of Vince Carter are more amazing. **Michael Jordan became great because of his frequent last shot heroics where he “saved” their team from losing.**

Note : God is amazing because Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of God saved us from shame, saved us from the clutches of our enemies. And for us, the enemy is Satan and the devil. God saved us from the clutches of sin and death.

IMPORTANT : And David used the praise of children and infants as a visual devise to show that it is those who are weak and defenseless, who cannot help themselves that God shows His strength and His saving power.

He protects and makes victorious THOSE WHO PRAISE HIM. Remember, the walls of Jericho. If you are depressed...sing praises to God. If you are tempted, sing praises to God. If you are under trial...PRAISE GOD! PRAISE GOD! PRAISE GOD!

Explain : Which is more glorious victory, an enemy defeated by a great and mighty army or an enemy defeated by a bunch of young kids? This is the reason why we love the story of David and Goliath.

Illustration : Time and time again, the Old Testament illustrates this fact through the Jews, a bunch of slaves defeating warrior nations like the Philistines, Jebusites, Hittites, Canaanites and etc.

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Illustration : Look at the bunch of disciples that Jesus chose.

But what did they accomplish?

Acts 17: "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

What kind of men were they?

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

What was their criteria?

they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST BY DECLARING HIS PRAISES!!!! AMEN!

b.) His creative works

You know how creative God is???? Look around you...look at your neighbor right now...God has a sense of humor by creating that face ☺

*You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

*³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
Which you have set in place.*

Note : The greater the works or the invention, the greater the glory of the one who created it.

Illustration : When I say a name, you would connect it immediately to their greatest invention – Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Frank and Lloyd Wright, Henry Ford. These men became great because of their creative work.

If these men are great and they only invented these things, **HOW MUCH MORE THE GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH WHO CREATED SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS YOU ARE SEEING AND ENJOYING TODAY LIKE THE MOON AND THE STARS.**

This is the reason why our Lord Jesus is amazing because He is God.

Colossians 1:¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

And you know what is the best creation God has made? Let's read on.

II. AMAZED BY GOD'S GRACE

⁴ *what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels^{le}
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

⁶ *You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:*

1. His grace shown on how He loves us.

⁴ *what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

Note : If you really see God for who He is – eternal, High in the heavens, majestic, perfect, pure, holy, holy, holy, Almighty with a host of angels praising Him and worshipping Him, then when you would look at yourself in contrast, a created being here on earth, nothing majestic, imperfect, impure, unholy, no power by itself and etc etc. then you would really say what David said in verse 4.

In short : I have nothing to offer to you and yet you care for me so much. You are always thinking about me? Wow!

Look at what the Bible says on how He looks at us and cares for us?

God cares when you are in pain or suffering...

*Psalm 56: 8 You number my wanderings;
Put my tears into Your bottle;
Are they not in Your book?*

God will take care of you when somebody harms you or tries to harm you.

Zechariah 2:8 for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye--

And of course...

John 3:¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**I hope you don't lose the impact of John 3:16 just because you are familiar with it.
He loves us so much that He gave His Son...His very own Son.**

Note : This is the reason why when people ask me, "How much should I give?" I will always answer, "How much do you love?" Or "Who should make the first move?" I will answer, "He or she who loves more."

Note : This is also the reason why when Peter asked the Lord in *Matthew 18*, how many times one should forgive? Seven times? *22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

2. His grace shown on how He lifted us.

a.) He lifted us by how He created us.

⁵ *You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

Remember : When God made us, He really thought of it on how each of us will be made

Psalm 139 : 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

And as the Bible says :

Genesis 1:12 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And do you know what is the greatest blessing that the angels do not have?

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This is the reason why Paul wrote in Romans 8

Romans 8:¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

b.) He lifted us by how he commissioned us.

⁶ *You made them rulers over the works of your hands;*

you put everything under their feet:

⁷ *all flocks and herds,*

and the animals of the wild,

⁸ *the birds in the sky,*

and the fish in the sea,

all that swim the paths of the seas.

Note : Do you see this? He could have created man to live like animals. AND HE COULD.

Proof : Read Daniel 4:28-33 Nebuchadnezzar was beaming with pride and exalting his own majesty when God spoke to him saying : *Daniel 8: ³² And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.* ³³ *That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.*

But God created us above animals and was even made to rule or manage them. *Genesis 2:15... to tend and keep it.*

What is the proof that man rules over the animals?

Give me the fiercest animal you know – Lion, bear, tiger....

Which creation is in the zoo? Man or lion? Man or bear?

Some smart aleck would say, the fiercest animal is the T-Rex. My answer would be, then why are they extinct and we are not. IT IS BECAUSE GOD HAS LIFTED MAN UP ABOVE OTHER CREATIONS ON EARTH.

God's grace is amazing...

Lyrics : HOW HE LOVES (David Crowder)

He is jealous for me
 Love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
 Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
 When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
 and I realize just how beautiful You are and how great your affections are for me.
 Oh, how He loves us so
 Oh, how He loves us How He loves us so.

Yeah, He loves us
 Woah, how He loves us 3x.

So we are His portion and He is our prize,
 Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes
 If grace is an ocean we're all sinking
 So heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss and my heart turns violently inside of my chest
 I don't have time to maintain these regrets when I think about the way

That he loves us,
 Woah, how He loves us 3x

And then David ended this Psalm again with...

⁹ *LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Note : It just shows how amazed he is with God's majesty!!!! THAT'S AN OVERFLOW OF THE HEART!!!!

Quote : A bird sings not because it has to, but because there's a song in its heart.

May I now invite everyone to close their eyes...pause for a moment...think about God's goodness in your life...and then one by one thank Him for it.

Prayer
Breaking of the Bread

S.G.D.