

Psalm 8 – Understanding Our Place

The Two Most Important Days in your life are 1. The Day you were born and 2. The Day you find out why. When you discover the purpose of your life. Today in Psalm 8 we're going to explore the purpose of life.

I heard someone recently explain the frustration of finding purpose. Our parents saw purpose as Success, Great Job, Great House, Great Car. At the end looked around and it wasn't worth it. So they said to their kids make your purpose Happiness – but that's even slipperier and more frustrating. At least parents had the house and career and car – we don't even have that!

But here's the thing. If we can see God clearly, then we can see ourselves clearly and we'll know our purpose. That's where Psalm 8 helps.

1. The Lord's Name is Majestic

The Lord, God has a name Yahweh and he is the Lord, the Master of the Universe and his name, his reputation is Majestic – Divine Glory. Look at verse one and two.

LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
²Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

Even to the unfiltered recognition of children, we can see what you have created, we can see your Glory written in what you have created, both Heaven and Earth.

Illustration: I was at a Family Do, talking to my brother-in-law's brother-in-law. We got talking about God and he said, "I don't believe in God."

I asked him, "What do you believe?"

He said, "I think there's something greater than us. When I'm out surfing in the early morning, peaceful, big sky, can't see the bottom of the ocean, I can sense it, some force, some feeling, some Spirit."

Dude – You believe in God!, You know Him, his glory, you sense his majesty. You just don't KNOW him, The God – Yahweh. But don't miss out!

Remember if we can see God clearly, then we can see ourselves clearly and we'll know our purpose.

2. The Lord is Majestic and We are Not

Nobody has ever referred to me as Majestic. As Humans we are not glorious. We're full of weakness and sin. I struggle to be patient with my own kids. Let alone other difficult people. But take a look at verses three and four. The Psalmist takes a look at the night-sky:

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?

God is personally involved in Creation, for His glory, and yet he pays attention to us. He cares about humanity. Why?

Why does the glorious God of Heaven, condescend to care for us?

Illustration: My first day at a new job, I jumped into a lift and there was an older guy, hopped in. He asked, "Do you work here?"

"My first day," I said.

"How's it going?"

"A whole lot to process and learn, I've got to get my mind around this book I was given, company calendar, brainstorming, goal-setting." I said, "Do you work here?"

"Well, I come in from time to time for meetings." We swapped names and he said, "I think that book will be helpful."

Two weeks later I see him again, he remembers my name and asks how I'm going?

"You're right," I said. "That book has been a great resource and I'm starting to get the hang of things."

Then we go to our big whole company meeting and our MD introduces the Global CEO, who is of course the guy from the lift. Why is the Global CEO sharing his time with a guy on his first day in a lift in Sydney? Step back for a minute and think here is the Lord of the Universe, Creator of Heavens and Earth, Why does he know us, Why does he care so deeply for us? He is Majestic, glorious - and we are not.

The answer we see in Jesus.

3. Jesus is the Lord

I mean we are given this incredible status by God – "a little lower than the angels" and we give this authority to rule over God's creation. Look with me from verse 5 about humanity:

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.

Incredible. But not everything is under our feet, under our authority. We have a virus and then a pandemic and everything changes. And if your family was healthy and your marriage was strong you're doing just OK and if they weren't everything just became incredibly painful.

But Jesus is Lord. And here's the incredible thing:

Jesus became human. We struggle and suffer but Hebrews 2:9 says:

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Jesus was the True Humanity. He lived the perfect life and he died our death as a sacrifice for our sins. Everything is now under his authority and he calls us brothers and sisters and welcomes us into his family, the Family of the LORD. We look forward to that time when we will be in His Presence, face to face.

Grab this, Jesus is Lord and he condescends to become human in order that we would become a new creation, completely forgiven with the assurance that we will be with Him even beyond death. Don't miss this. We can see God clearly, when we see Jesus. But even the most educated of Jesus' time didn't get this – they didn't see what the children saw.

Matthew 21:

¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

¹⁶ "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

"From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

Jesus is Lord and he shows us the Father. Remember if we can see God clearly, then we can see ourselves clearly and we'll know our purpose.

4. Our purpose is the Worship the Lord

God made us. God gave us status. We bear the image of God. We reflect back his glory, like the moon reflects the light of the Sun. So we worship the Lord.

God loves us. God loves us so much that Jesus died for us. So we worship the Lord.

Remember if we can see God clearly, then we can see ourselves clearly and we'll know our purpose.

Our purpose is the Worship the Lord. Shout and Sing these words to Him:

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

But we also worship in radically ordinary ways: We see Jesus and so we see God clearly and we see ourselves clearly as image-bearers of God.

So, we love unconditionally because he first loved us.

We give generously because he gave his life for us.

We show mercy because he was merciful to us.

We forgive because he forgave us.

We humbly serve because he condescended to become one of us.

We open our homes with hospitality to see strangers become neighbours and neighbours become brothers and sisters because he opens heaven for us.

We are patient and generous with our time and full of grace because the Lord of Heaven and of Earth cares deeply for humanity.

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