

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Genesis 1:26–31 | 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 | Hebrews 2:5–9

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 6.7.26

SUMMARY

Psalm 8 can be easily misunderstood if not read in light of Christ's fulfillment of it. The psalm begins with praise and adoration to God for the glory of his creation (vs. 1–3), then speaks of the glory and honor he has placed upon man (vs. 4–8), and closes with a refrain of praise (v. 9). The psalmist rightly heaps praise upon the Lord, not only attributing the wonder of creation to him but also speaking of how he will bring down his foes through weakness, as symbolized by "babies and infants" (v. 2). Strength through weakness foreshadows Christ's reign, as the apostle Paul noted what Jesus told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

The psalmist then speaks of man, who is part of the created order, but notes that man has been given dominion over creation—a high responsibility, indeed. He notes that the Lord has made man "a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor" (v. 5). Man was made in the image of God, so in this respect he reflects God's glory and honor, but has man fulfilled this obligation well? Psalm 8 echoes the creation account, which established man's dominion over creation (Genesis 1:26–31), but since the fall of man (Genesis 3), man has not fulfilled this calling as he ought. However, Jesus Christ is the perfect man and the fulfillment of Psalm 8, the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45–49). Jesus was made lower than the angels, suffered, died, was raised, and is now ascended into his rightful place of earth-governing dominion. Blessedly, one day mankind's dominion will be consummated when Christ comes to usher in the new heavens and new earth (Hebrews 2:5–9), and Psalm 8 will be completely fulfilled, thanks be to God.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Psalm 8.

In reading through Psalm 8, who would you say is the focus, or the main character of this passage? In your answer, consider how the passage begins and ends.

To this point in history, assess man's performance in his command to subdue the earth and have dominion over it (Genesis 1:28). Has man done a good job? How did Christ accomplish what man couldn't? Is he finished?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.