

**# 1 God our Creator Psalm 8**

**READ the Psalm together.**

By any stretch of the imagination, the thought of creation is mind blowing. The Bible is telling us that, from nothing, God ‘spoke’ the creation into being. This is NOT the same as one of us taking a piece of cloth and making a beautiful garment – that is creative but not from nothing. Psalm 8 is the first Psalm that gives an experience of joyful praise after some very dark moments in the earlier Psalms.

1. Has the wonder of God’s creation become lost because we look too much at people’s achievements and lose the sense of wonder that God both started it all and sustains it day by day?

The Psalm has two book ends. Verse 9 is a repeat of verse 1.

***‘O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!’***

The name of God is the first ‘Lord’ and the second ‘Lord’ is a term of respect or honour. The Psalmist is actually saying ‘O Yahweh, my Lord’. The name of God carries great authority in Jewish writing. When God’s name is mentioned what follows is to be obeyed and not debated. When the writer says ‘how majestic’ he is describing something of impressive, almost intimidating, power. And it is visible for all to see in the work of creation.

1. Do we need to spend more time appreciating the marvels of creation?

How can we do this?

Do all the natural history programmes we watch (which rarely give credit to God as the creator)

tend to give us a ‘God-less’ view of creation?

Verses 1b & 2 give us a stark contrast between the glory and power to be seen throughout God’s creation and the vulnerability of human kind and the futility of being God’s enemy. God’s power should be enough to silence those who try to oppose him and we should, in one sense, address God with the simplicity of a child when we praise him. Creation should make us people who are ‘lost in wonder, love and praise’.

1. God’s power in creation is perhaps best seen in the sky at night when we gaze at the myriad of galaxies.

What are the dangers if we lose this sense of awe when we praise God?

Are there dangers that praise becomes too mechanical?

Verses 3 & 4 pick up this point. Whether you look at the heavens and the clockwork precision with which moon and stars turn and return again to a predictable place, you see God’s work in creation and the sustaining power that is in his system. (We knew in advance when the Blue Moon would appear). But all this is but child’s play to the creator – it was spun off the tips of his fingers.

1. In comparison with God’s creative power, the question is then posed – ‘what is man?’ The timeless order of creation covers light years – we have our ‘three score years and ten’. But God is still ‘mindful’ of us. Putting the ‘son of man’ title (the one Jesus uses about himself) tells us that his son will identify with human frailty.

Do we realise and accept our own frailty?

Do we over-use familiarity with God?

Should we sing ‘he’s my mate’ when we sing about God?

Has the everyday blocked out the awesome power of God?

Verses 5 to 8 are about our responsibility and the power God has given us. ‘You made him’ tells us we are God’s handiwork. Frail we certainly are but also ‘a little lower than the angels’ – a little less elevated than those who occupy the heavens. We are ‘crowned with glory and honour’ – suggesting that God has adorned the frail humans he created in his image so that we display something of the glory and power of God himself.

1. Is that how you see yourself? A being, frail in many ways, but crowned with something of God’s glory to make God obvious in the world.

How does this change the way we live?

What does it mean to be ‘crowned with glory and honour’?

‘You made him ruler’ goes back to the creation narrative in Genesis 1 where we are told that we are ‘made in God’s image’ (1:26) and given responsibility for the rest of creation (1:27 & 28). We are ‘under his feet’ so we have no authority except that given to us by God.

1. What does this say about how we should exercise responsibility over God’s creation?

Have the so-called ‘green lobby’ hi-jacked this agenda?

Do Christians speak loudly enough or act energetically enough in creation care?

Are there ways in which each of us could do better?

Are there dangers that we say that creation care is too big for us – that’s the role of government?

As you conclude your time together READ the Psalm again

Decide the one main lesson you have learnt from this Psalm.