

## **Bible Readings**

### **Psalm 8**

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

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.
- <sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,
- <sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?
- <sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honour.
- <sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:
- <sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,
- <sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.
- <sup>9</sup> LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### **Hebrews 2:5-11**

### **Jesus Made Fully Human**

<sup>5</sup> It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
a son of man that you care for him?

<sup>7</sup> You made them a little lower than the angels;  
you crowned them with glory and honour

<sup>8</sup> and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. <sup>9</sup> But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

## Sermon

### Psalm 8 - The Majesty of God (Psalm 8:1-9 and Hebrews 2:5-11)

We're continuing our **summer series of Psalms** - looking at **Psalms** that point to **Jesus, the Messiah**.

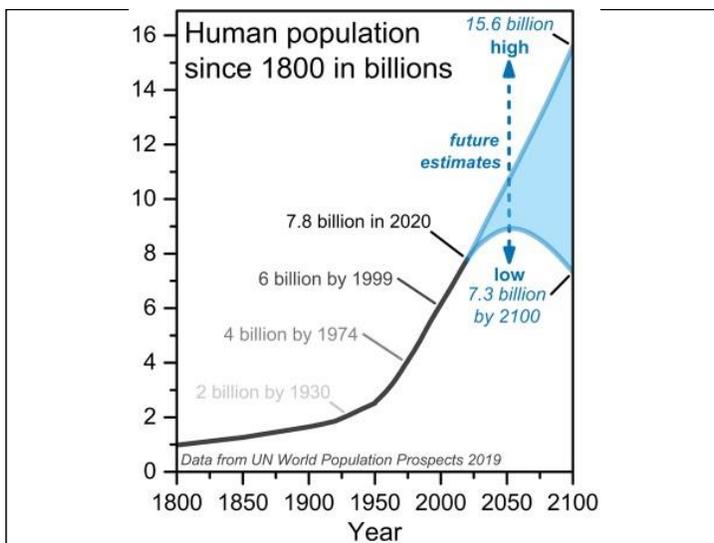
**Outline** available.

Let me **pray** before we begin.

### Intro/It's easy to feel small

- It's easy for us to **feel small** - when we consider
- We are one of **7.8 Billion** people on planet **Earth**

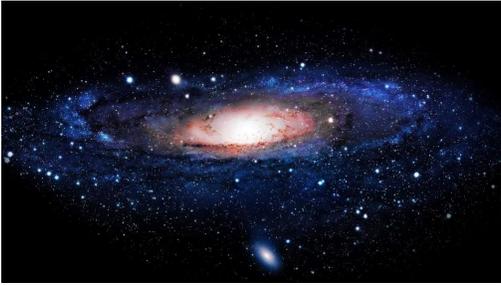
### [PowerPoint 1-Population]



- And when we consider - we live in a little **sub-division** of the universe called the **Galaxy** of the **Milky Way**

### [PowerPoint 2-Milky Way]

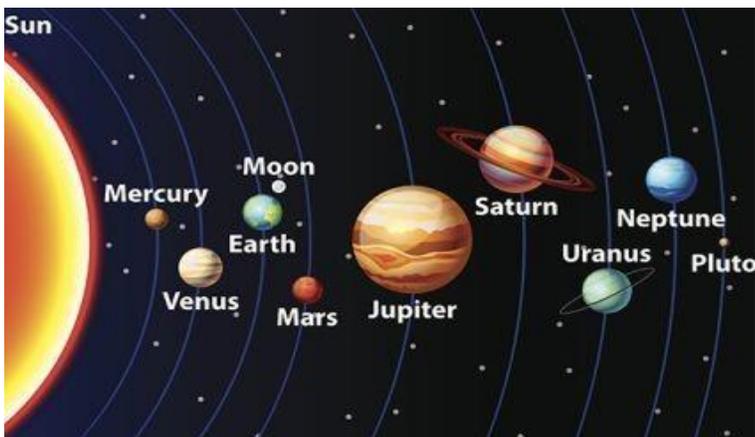
## Milky Way



- And we live in a little cul-de-sac of the Milky Way called the Solar System

[PowerPoint 3-Solar System]

## Solar System

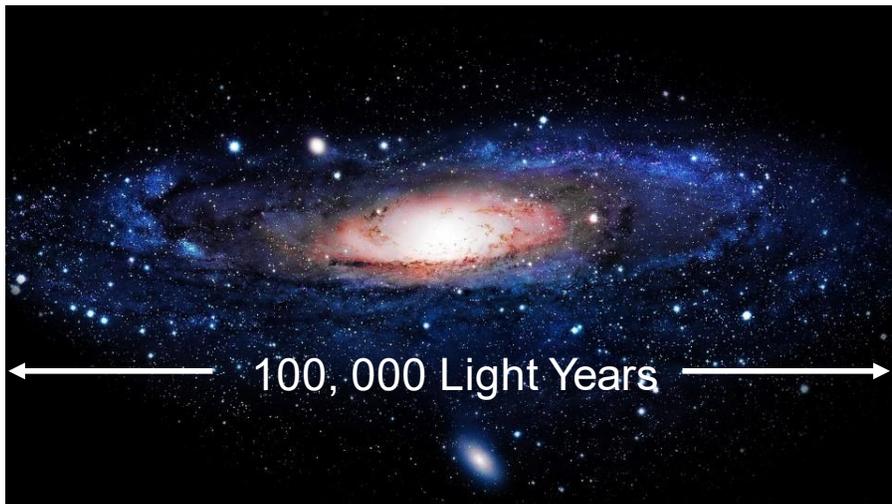


- Living on earth we are 41.4 M km from Venus, 78.3M Km from Mars and 149.6M Km (93 million miles) from the Sun
- The Galaxy of the Milky Way has 100 thousand million stars
- If we were to count all the stars in our sub-division of the Milky Way - and count them one per second - it would take 2,500 years to count them all

- The universe is so vast - we can't measure travelling the universe in miles or kms - we use a measurement called a light year
- **Light travels at the speed of light** which is **300,000 KM per second**
- A **light year** is the **distance light travels in one Earth Year**
- In **one light year** - travelling at the speed of light - you could travel **9 trillion KM**
- To travel to the nearest star (beyond the sun) would **take 4.5 light years** and mean travelling 41.59 trillion KM

[PowerPoint 4 - Milky Way Light Years]

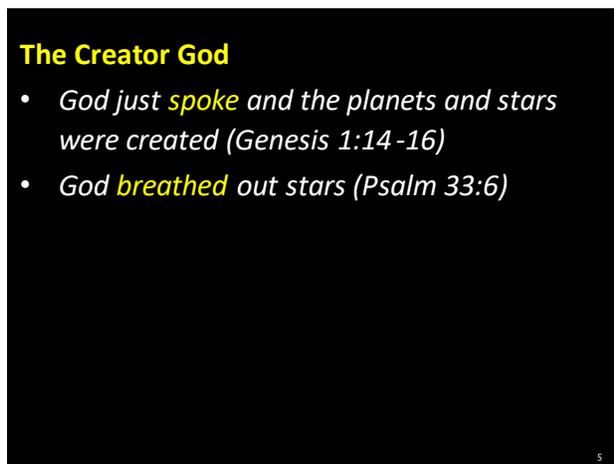
## Milky Way



- To **travel across the Milky Way galaxy** would take 100,000 light years
- Our little **Solar System** within the Milky Way is so tiny - it's like comparing a **10c piece** with the size of mainland Australia
- There are **hundreds of billions of galaxies** in the **Universe**

- It's impossible to count how many stars there are in the universe
- I'm not trying to make you feel small - I'm trying to make you see we are SMALL
- Who created all this?

### [PowerPoint 5 - Creator God]



- The Bible says in Genesis 1:14-16 - **God just spoke and created planets and stars**
- The Bible also says in Psalm 33:6: **By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**
- **How awesome is God?**
- No-one can compare to Him
- The prophet **Isaiah says this about God** - in Isaiah 40:25-26

### [PowerPoint 6 - Incomparable God - Read verse]

### The Incomparable God

<sup>25</sup> “To whom will you compare me?

Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?

He who *brings out the starry host one by one*  
and *calls forth each of them by name.*

Because of his great power and mighty  
strength, *not one of them is missing.*

(Isaiah 40:25-26)

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- That's **amazing** isn't it?
- How awesome is God?
- That brings us to today's Psalm - psalm 8

### God is so Big (Psalm 8:1-2)

#### [PowerPoint 7-Psalm 8:1-2]

#### God is so Big! (Psalm 8:1-2)

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

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

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- Look how King David begins Psalm 8 - v1

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

- God's name (reputation) is described as majestic

- In the Hebrew it means many things: *awesome, magnificent, beautiful, excellent, glorious, mighty, big, powerful, full of royal authority and supreme in all things*
- All those adjectives describing God - because one adjective is not enough!
- How can David say this about God?
- Because - at the end of v1 - God has set His glory in the Heavens
- We only need to look up on a dark clear night and see God's handiwork
- The bottom line - God is so Big - and we're so small!
- It's so obvious how awesome God is - that David says in v2 - even children can see it - and they're able to keep atheists quiet with their childlike observations

Illustration: *There's a story of a little girl talking to her class teacher who didn't believe in God and didn't believe in the Bible.*

*The teacher said to her - "You don't' believe those stories in the Bible do you? - stories like Jonah being swallowed up by a big fish - It's impossible for even a whale to swallow a man whole"*

*The little girl said - "I believe God provided the big fish to swallow Jonah"*

*The teacher said "that's nonsense"*

*The little girl said - "when I get to Heaven, I'll ask Jonah exactly what happened"*

*The teacher replied - "what if Jonah went to Hell?"*

*The little girl said - "then you can ask him!"*

- Out of the **mouths of babes!**

- That's David's point here - **simple childlike faith** - can floor even the **smartest sceptic**.
- That's what the children did on the first Palm Sunday in the temple - **the children praised Jesus** - they knew who He was - and **they shamed the chief priests and teachers of the law** - who were sceptical about Jesus (Matt 21:15-16)
- You see the Bible tells us what God has done and continues to do
- And as we look around - **we see the evidence of God's handiwork everywhere** - and **we can have faith** in the Bible and its truths
- To deny God exists - or to deny God's handiwork - **means we have to have faith** in something else or someone else - **that created everything** instead of God - and in fact we probably need more faith - in that something else or someone else - **than just simply having faith** that **God and His Bible are true!**
- The **evidence of God and His awesome creation** are overwhelming

### The Way God looks at us humans (Psalm 8:3-8)

- David's point in Psalm 2 is - **God is Big** - **God is infinite**
- And we are teeny-weeny - and finite in comparison
- **So, David asks an obvious question** in v3-4

- When I look at God's handiwork and consider how amazing He is - why would God bother with us teeny-weeny humans on this teeny-weeny planet Earth - in this teeny-weeny cul-de-sac of the Milky Way?
- One of Job's mates - Bildad - looked at humans - and he put it this way.... In Job 25:5-6

<sup>5</sup> If even the moon is not bright

and the stars are not pure in his eyes,

<sup>6</sup> how much less a mortal, who is but a maggot—

a human being, who is only a worm!”

- His argument is - if the stars and planets are puny compared to God - how much less are we humans - we're like maggots or worms!

### [PowerPoint 8-God looks at Humans]

#### The Way God looks at us Humans (Psalm 8:3-8)

- *Even though God's creation is so big and we're so small – He has a plan for each of us*
- *God made us a little lower than angels*
- *Crowned us with glory and honour – by saving us from sin & death through Jesus*
- *Gave us dominion over His Creation*
- *Gave us the ability to do the most amazing things*

- Fortunately, Job's mate is wrong - God doesn't look at us humans like that!
- Instead of treating us like maggots or worms - God loves and cherishes us
- God thinks we're special?
- David doesn't tell us why God thinks we're special

- But the Bible tells us that humans are the pinnacle of His creation - and He wants a relationship with us - and He has a plan for each of our lives!
- Sometimes we can't always explain why we love someone - and we can't fully explain why God loves us - but He does!
- v5 says - God has made us humans - a little lower than angels
- **Angels** are God's supernatural messengers
- We're not supernatural - we're physical beings
- Which might seem not so good - because angels can fly (Rev 14:6) - and we can't
- Yet we have a close relationship with God - so much so that - our salvation from sin through Jesus - is something so special that even angels want to look into it (1 Peter 1:12)
- And v5b - **God crowns us with glory** and honour
- We know this because God doesn't treat us as our sinful nature deserves - instead He shows grace and mercy - in sending His Son - Jesus - to redeem us from sin and death - and give us **forgiveness and eternal life**
- So, when God looks at us as forgiven Christians - **He sees us as righteous like His Son** - that's what David means by **crowning us with glory and honour**
- As well as that - **God has given us the glory and honour of looking after His creation** - and put **everything under our control** - see v6-8

- Every creature that moves **belongs to us**
- We've **tamed** a great variety of **animals** - like **cows, pigs, horses, dogs**  
- we're still working on taming cats!
- We've even used some **animals** for **food**
- Other creatures to **help** us - with **medicine** and **research**
- **Our Human rule** has even gone beyond this Earth
- We've **landed on the moon** - we have **humans living** in outer **space** in the **international Space Station** and a space craft recently even landed briefly on a **comet**
- We might not be able to fly like angels - but we've **built aircraft** and **space ships** and **drones** that do
- God's given us the **ability to do amazing things** - we've made **computers** and **robotic systems** - and **mobile devices**
- We've **even plumbed** the **depths** of the **Earth** - and **extracted precious materials** -
- We've **built cities** in **deserts** and **swamps**
- We've **built houses** and **business** and **corporations**
- **Everything God created** is at our disposal
- We can do anything - **right?**

## Our Dominion seems limited (Hebrews 2:5-8)

- Not quite!

### [PowerPoint 9-Limited Dominion]

#### Our Dominion is Limited (Hebrews 2:5-8)

- *Even though we have dominion over God's creation – we don't yet have full control*

- **Reality seems to fall short of God's promise** in Psalm 8 - of putting everything under humans' feet.
- The **writer of Hebrews** (in our NT passage from Hebrews 2:5-11)
- **Analyses Psalm 8**
- He says in vv6-8 of Hebrews 2:
  - <sup>6</sup> But there is a place where someone has testified:  
 "What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
 a son of man that you care for him?
  - <sup>7</sup> You made them a little lower than the angels;  
 you crowned them with glory and honour
  - <sup>8</sup> and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.
- So, it **seems that although we have dominion over all creation - we don't actually yet have full control over it**

- We see the devastations that cyclones, earthquakes and volcanoes bring
- We see the damage bush fires and floods do
- We have sickness like Ebola, SARS and Covid19 - and cancer - that we can't quite master
- We have wars and terrorism and rioting - that we can't seem to eliminate
- And then there's our own lives - with sometimes frustrating, selfish and hurtful relationships - broken marriages and divorces - companies going bankrupt - people losing their jobs - just when life seems to be going okay - the rug is pulled from under us
- The writer of Hebrews is right - *at present we do not see everything subject to humans*

### There is One we can count on (Heb 2:9-11)

- Thankfully the writer of Hebrews has a but in verse 9

### [PowerPoint 10-The One]

#### **There is One we can count on (Hebrews 2:9-11)**

- *We can count on Jesus – the Son of Man*
- *He became human – a little lower than angels*
- *He was crowned with glory and honour – because He died for sins to be forgiven and rose to bring eternal life*
- *He has made believers holy*
- *He rules Heaven and Earth*
- *Praise God for His Son – The Son of Man!*

- The writer says - But we do see Jesus - God's Only Son
- You see the writer of Hebrews sees that - Psalm 8 is not just about humans
- It's also about one special human
- You see v4 of Psalm 8 in our modern NIV - tries to be **neutral about gender** (politically correct) -
- It should read "What is **mankind** that you are mindful of him, **the son of man**, that you care for him"
- This is how the writer of Hebrews quotes it in Heb 2:6
- The term "**Son of Man**" is often used in the Bible -as a code word - for the Messiah - Jesus
- The prophet Daniel refers to the **Messiah** as the **Son of Man** (Dan 7:13)
- Even Jesus - referred to **Himself** - as the Son of Man
- So, the writer of Hebrews is saying - Psalm 8 looks beyond humans to this Son of Man - Jesus Himself - He is the ultimate Human
- And He is one we can count on
  - Jesus left His Heavenly glory - and **became lower than angels** - that is he became human - on that 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Day
  - He was **crowned with glory and honour** - because in His love and grace and mercy - He came to die for the forgiveness of sins - and **He tasted death for all of us** - so we didn't have to die for our sins
  - And through His glorious resurrection from the dead - He **brings all believers to glory** - by saving them from sin and death

- Jesus' saving action - according to v11 - makes believers holy like Him  
- and makes believers, Jesus' brothers and sisters - we're His family
- And because Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth - He truly does  
have everything under His feet - He rules all - unlike mere human  
beings (v8)
- **Praise God for His Son, Jesus, - the Son of Man - we can count on!**

### Our Response (Psalm 8:1 & 9; John 13:34-35)

- To finish up...
- **Psalm 8 begins and ends with the wonderful praise of how majestic God's**  
**name is**
- **God's majestic name and reputation goes beyond this Psalm**
- **Because God has exalted Jesus, His Son, to be in the highest place - He**  
**sits at the right hand of the Father (Matt 22:44); rules all - and He has**  
**the name above all names (Phil 2:9)**
- **Through Jesus (The Word of God) **creation came into being** - and even**  
**though - through our sin\_ - creation was broken - Jesus restores**  
**everything - even our broken relationship with God**
- **All this demands a response from us**

[PowerPoint 11-Response]

**Our Response? (Psalm 8:1, 9 & John 13:34-35)**

1. Praise God's majestic name!
2. Love like Jesus loves:  
<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- How shall we respond this morning?
- Obviously like David does in Psalm 8 - verses 1 & 9 - we can be praising God's majestic name!
- But there is another response we can make
- It's actually quite simple - and **Jesus has given us our response**
- In **John 13:34-35**
- <sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- **We love like He loves - we love others - sacrificially.**

Let's pray...