

THE SECOND ADAM (Ps. 8)

Ps. 8:1 To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David. [*Worship and Witness*] O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. [*The Wonder of Creation*] ³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; [*Man's domination*] ⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? ⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. ⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. [*Worship*] ⁹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Each of the four times Ps. 8 is quoted in the New Testament, it applies to Jesus ...

1. **Mt. 21:16** And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; *have ye never read*, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? ... **Ps. 8:2** Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength
2. **I Cor. 15:27** For he hath put all things under his feet. *But when he saith*, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. ... **Ps. 8:6** Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet
3. **Eph. 1:20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²² And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church ... **Ps. 8:6** Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet
4. **Heb. 2:6** But *one in a certain place testified*, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? ⁷ Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: ⁸ Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. ... Ps. 8:5,6

The theme in Psalm 8 presents the excellence of God in this present world and in anticipation of the future glory. It is written by David, ¹ To the chief Musician upon [*or against*] Gittith. Gittith means 'wine press', and Gittith is understood to be Gath ... 'Gath' (Aramaic 'Geth') means 'wine press' ... Gath is where Goliath came from, and there is a connection with the introduction to the next psalm, Psalm 9, ¹ To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben. Muthlabben comes from two Hebrew words, - 'muth' which means 'death', and 'ben' which means 'son of' ... 'death of the son', i.e. the son of Gittith/Gath ... Commentators suggest David is referring to his contest with Goliath *from Gath* (**I Sam. 17:4** And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath) ... and they connect the opening verses of Ps. 9, which is also written by David, **Ps. 9:1** To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David. I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. ³ When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. ⁴ For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. ⁵ Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. ⁶

O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

The psalm begins and ends with the same words of worship, ¹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! ... ⁹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! ... Its focus is the undiminishing sovereignty of God, perfect and preeminent. However, *slithering* in the background is the enemy, ² thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger ... They cannot succeed against God, so they target His people, and David as their representative pleads, ... that thou mightest still [*stop, destroy, cease*] the enemy and the avenger.

The enemy is a formidable threat to God's people but remember ... the excellence and glory of the Lord are at each end upholding them (v.1,9). Ultimately, the enemy *will* be 'stilled' ... This prayer God would answer at Calvary where Satan's 'head was bruised' (Gen. 3:15). It will be answered again at a time, yet in the future, as Isaiah and John describe, ... **Is. 24:21** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. ²² And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison ... **Rev. 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled ... Ultimately, the prayer of God's people, - prayed in the will of God, - will be finally answered when Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, **Rev. 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Those who belong to the Lord are described as 'babes and sucklings' (Ps. 8:2) ... Obviously, they are not literally 'new-born' babies, but as Jesus explains, **Mt. 11:25** I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, *and hast revealed them unto babes* ... i.e. those who have been 'born again' in Christ, **Mt. 18:3** Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven ... And Jesus indicated how He was quoting from Ps. 8:2, **Mt. 21:16** Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? ... These are His 'born again' babes and sucklings, for whom He will '*still*' [*cease, destroy, silence*] the enemy.

God's worship and witness (v. 1-3) are elaborated upon in v.3, **When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained [*set in place, established*]** ... God is the Creator and the Keeper of His creation, ... and His people know it for they look up, whereas their enemy only looks down to what is around them ... and that is where the next question *descends* to, ⁴ What is man, that thou

art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? ... Man is nothing in comparison with God for God sends the waves and earthquakes, and humanity is powerless to stop them. Men cannot alter the sun or the moon or the stars. ...

In Gen. 1, God originally gave him authority over the earth, **Gen. 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. ... But man abused what God had given him, and he became a sinner.

Instead of enjoying freedom, he became bound, and it is amazing God has anything further to do with him, ⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man [*ben-Adam*], that thou visitest him? ... Similarly, in another psalm of David, **Ps. 144:3** LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! ⁴ Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. ... David, however, sees beyond the failings, - that is where the devil would have us stay. Instead, David lifts us into the realm of God, **Ps. 8:5** For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. ⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

a little lower than the angels ... The word for ‘angels’ is *Elohim*, usually translated as God, - only here and in Heb. 2:7 is it translated ‘angels’. The NIV and the ESV translate it as ‘heavenly beings’, the Geneva Bible and the New American Standard as ‘God’, and the Jewish Tanakh as ‘divine’. It simply refers to how God created man in His own image to represent Him on the earth. ‘Crowned with glory and honour’, man was commissioned by God to care for and rule in His place on earth, **Gen. 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion ... **Ps. 8:6** Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

However, man’s crown ‘fell’ when the first Adam was deceived by the serpent, and he was stripped of the honour with which God had originally blessed him in the Garden of Eden. Consequently, God’s creation was marred and no longer did the wolf dwell with the lamb (Is. 11), the leopard with the goat, neither did the cow and the bear feed together, or the lion eat straw with the ox. ... God’s original creation had descended into a fallen state because of the sin of the first Adam.

God did not give up though for He already had a second Adam ... God was fully prepared and He was not taken unawares for the psalm begins and ends with His excellence over all the earth. The writer to the Hebrews specifically records, **Heb. 2:6** *But one in a certain place testified ...* he is referring to David and his prophecy where in Ps. 8 he pointed to the future and prophesied how, as at the beginning, God's Name was excellent in all the earth so He will ultimately restore that same excellence through the *second* Adam, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is how the writer to the Hebrews explains it, **Heb. 2:5** *For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come ...* 'the world to come' will not be under the domination or governance of created beings, created beings will not be in control, - they will not reign or govern, - as was the privilege given by God to the first Adam (Gen. 1:28). Instead, in 'the world to come', God's new order will be established, under the domination and rule, government and reign, of the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus. ... God's plan worked like this ... When He entered this world, His Son became a little lower than the angels (Heb. 2:7) – **Phil. 2:6** *being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men - ... and following the cross, the Saviour rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven to be crowned, ...* **Heb. 2:7** *thou crownedst him with glory and honour [cf. Rev. 5].*

From His coronation in Heaven He would return to earth, for in anticipation of His future reign *on earth*, the psalmist, - supported by the writer to the Hebrews, - announces, *[Thou] didst set him [Jesus, the Second Adam] over the works of thy hands [God's creation, this earth].* Then ultimately and finally, when God's plans for this earth are completed, - and Christ's earthly reign is finished, and Satan and his armies cast into Hell, - **II Peter 3:10** *the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up ... And God will replace the old heaven and the old earth with the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1), for* **Rev. 21:2** *I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 ... the former things are passed away. 5 ... Behold, I make all things new. ...* **Heb. 2:8** *Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet [the Second Adam].* For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. ... all things in subjection under his feet ... Paul repeats this same Old Testament truth, **I Cor. 15:27** *For he hath put all things under his feet. ...* **Eph. 1:22** *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, ... And that is the Christian's blessed surety for God will ultimately restore all things unto Himself. How fitting then, the psalmist's great affirmation, Ps. 8:1,9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*