

'From Dust to Dignity'

I. The Introduction to the Psalm (psalm 8)

A. The Title to the Psalm:

- In the Hebrew text the title is the first verse:

1. The Author – David (דָּוִד בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל)

2. The Instrument – Gittith (עַל-הַגִּיטִית)

- A guitar-like instrument associated with Gath of Philistia:

- Gath was one of five major Philistine cities located in the coastal plain of southwestern Judah:

- A resident of this city was a 'Gittite':

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A. The Title to the Psalm:

B. The Type of Psalm:

1. It is a Nature Psalm (vv. 1, 3-8; cf. also Pss.19, 29, 65, 104)

a) Nature Reflects God's Glory:

b) Nature is God's Handiwork:

c) Nature is Under God's Control:

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1. It is a Nature Psalm (vv. 1, 3-8; cf. also Pss.19, 29, 65, 104)

2. It is a Psalm of Praise (vv. 1a, 9)

a) Exclamation of Praise (אֲמִינֵן אֲמִינֵן) (v. 1a)

b) Exclamation of Praise (אֲמִינֵן אֲמִינֵן) (v. 9)

- The Lord is clearly the object of praise:

- 1) The Lord's Majesty:
- 2) The Lord's Strength:
- 3) The Lord's Creation:

➤ Therefore the praise is not an expression of joy in creation without the Creator:

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c) The Truth of It:

- Pantheism deifies and glorifies nature to the point that God's existence is dependent upon nature's existence:

- Theism joyfully looks at God as the distinct and good Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of the world:

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B. The Type of Psalm:

C. The Title of the Psalm:

- "The LORD's Glory and Man's Dignity" (NASB)

- "God's Glory Revealed in Man's Dignity" (Leupold, p. 100)

• This hymn "aims to set forth one particular aspect of the glory of God, chiefly in so far as this glory is revealed by the very creation and position of man, the chief of the creatures of God" (Leupold, p. 100)

I. The Introduction to the Psalm (psalm 8)

II. The Reason for the Study of this Psalm:

A. The Dethroning of God:

B. The Disintegration of Humanity:

1. The Decomposing or Destroying of the Integrity of Humanity:

- "If a mother can kill her own children, then what can be next?"
- (Mother Teresa)
- "The true problem lies in the hearts and thoughts of men. It is not a physical problem, but an ethical one....What terrifies us is not the explosive force of the atomic bomb, but the power of the wickedness of the human heart, its explosive power for evil. In the name of God, if you believe in Him, take Him (God) seriously, and control and restrain scientific discoveries; if not, we are lost."
- (Dr. Albert Einstein, 1948)

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II. The Reason for the Study of this Psalm:

A. The Dethroning of God:

B. The Disintegration of Humanity:

1. The Decomposing or Destroying of the Integrity of Humanity:

2. The Dethroning of God is the Beginning:

3. The Dethroning of God Leads to the Destruction of the Dignity and Nobility in Man:

A. The Exclamation of Praise (v. 1a)

1. The Self-Revelation of the King in the Works of His Created Kingdom:

a) *The Redeemer-God* (לַיהוָה) is King (יְהוָה) (v. 1a)

b) *The Redeemer King is Creator* (v. 1a, 3)

- His Majesty as Creator:

- The majesty of Yahweh's name radiates from His work:

- Creation as a whole is an expression of the glory of the great King:

• *The countless wonders in –*

- 1) The realm of plant, animal and human life,
- 2) The wonders of the mental life,
- 3) The riddle of memory,
- 4) The mystery of human personality with its thought, will and moral capacity:

• *The World Around Us and In Us:*

• *Everything unites in a sublime testimony –*

- 1) The Animate – Matter
- 2) The Inanimate – Soul/spirit

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- His Majesty as Creator:

- The majesty of Yahweh's name radiates from His work:

- Creation as a whole is an expression of the glory of the great King:

- The true value of all creation lies in its relationship to the Lord:

- This value becomes a reality whenever the individual creature participates in the life and the power of God (not just physically but spiritually):

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- His Majesty as Creator:

- His Magnitude as Creator:

- "Your fingers" (אֶצְבָּעֶיךָ) miniaturizes the magnitude of the universe in the presence of the Creator:

Final thoughts

- "There is no statement in the cosmological teaching of other peoples which equals this first sentence of the Bible" (Hermann Gunkel)
- It defies all atheism, pantheism, and materialism:
- In the beginning was not chaos – But God
- In the beginning Spirit has precedence over matter: