

The Final Snail Mail Installment of Bible Study Notes During Stay at Home Orders!

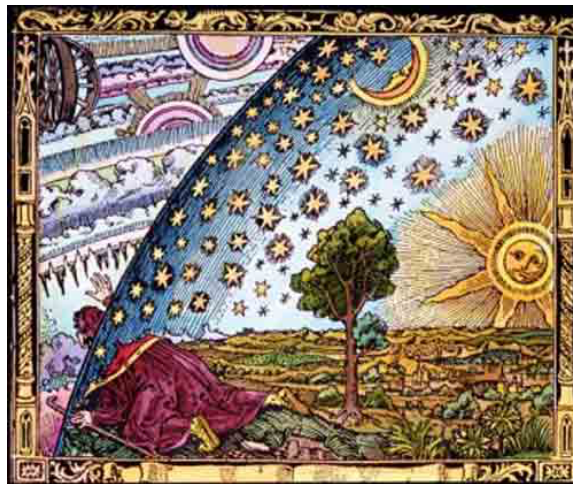
Soon, we will be able to gather again to worship, to study the Holy Scriptures, to fellowship, and let our kids play!

I will continue to supply notes for our Daily Bible Readings 2020 and post them at www.sterrymemorial.org On the front page, towards the bottom, you will find a multi-colored box, labeled, “2020 Bible Reading & Notes.” Click on the box to access all past and upcoming notes to enhance your daily reading of God’s Word.

Daily Bible Readings 2020

Read one text daily, then start over through the list again & again until year-end.

Day 1	Ephesians 1
Day 2	Ephesians 2
Day 3	Ephesians 3
Day 4	Ephesians 4
Day 5	Ephesians 5
Day 6	Ephesians 6
Day 7	Psalm 1
Day 8	Psalm 8
Day 9	Psalm 13
Day 10	Psalm 15
Day 11	Esther 1-2
Day 12	Esther 3-4
Day 13	Esther 5-6
Day 14	Esther 7-8
Day 15	Esther 9-10



Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.*

2

*Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.*

3

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

4

*what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?*

5

*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.*

6

*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,*

7

*all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,*

8

*the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

9

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

Outline of Psalm 8

(1a-c) God's beauty and authority is displayed throughout all creation! And beyond creation!

(2 - 4) God's glory is displayed even in the most helpless member of humanity, an infant, compared to the most formidable member of humanity.

(5-8) God has located humanity on earth, endowed with glory and authority to care for his creation.

(9) God's beauty and authority is displayed throughout all creation!

The Main Point of Psalm 8 = God has created and empowered humanity to display his beauty and authority through humanity's care taking of his creation.

Notes verse by verse

(1) and (9) *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

"Majesty" describes the beauty and authority of God, what the Holy Scriptures often refer to as "divine glory." We would hardly ever put beauty and authority together because of the abuse of

authority in our evil world. But God's authority is infinitely perfect and purposeful toward only a good end. When God exercises authority, one of the results is beauty - like an artist who controls her paints, canvas and brush to create a masterpiece.

"Lord" is the title for God that describes his authority over all creation and specifically in his covenant with humanity. In this covenant, God has established his relationship with us. Moses describes the covenant resulting in God dwelling in the midst of his people. Here are a few citations from the Five Books of Moses and the Prophets:

Genesis 17:17

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

Exodus 6:7

"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

Ezekiel 36:28

"You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

Jeremiah 7:23

"But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'"

Jeremiah 30:22

*"And you shall be my people,
and I will be your God."*

God as Lord, uses his power, authority and control for the good of his creation. As Lord he is the divine party of the covenant. The second party of the covenant is the human party.

"O Lord, our Lord" = This is David and the covenant community owning their covenant relationship to God, who is not only **the** Lord, but **our** Lord. Sometimes - actually often - in this world, we common folk do not wish to own our rulers, leaders - lords. They are oppressive or they do not represent our interests and good. But the people of God own God as *"our Lord,"* whose authority produces beauty. God, by the authority of his will and word, creates everything *"very good."* But the beauty and authority of God is not merely displayed in his creation...

"You have set your glory above the heavens..." God is infinitely - above and beyond time and space - the author and epitome of beauty and the greatest imaginable authority. Divine glory = divine beauty and authority.

(2) The entire human race is made in the image of God, and so, even the most helpless, seemingly insignificant member of humanity displays God's glory - his beauty and authority. God's valuation of humanity does not follow an "Alpha Dog" performance. The saber rattling warrior, like a Goliath, may not be the strongest representative of the human race. God uses the likes of helpless infants to silence and paralyze his and our enemies.

(3-4) This is David's response to God's display of his glory in humanity - even the most dependent member of the race. It is also his introduction to God's plan to make humanity his caretaker of his creation.

"... *the work of your fingers...*" = The Infinite Creator does not have a body like the human race does. Often, to express the work of God, who is a Spirit, the authors of the Holy Scriptures use language that describes God's work in terms of human body parts - what is known in the field of literature as "anthropomorphism." -assigning to God human body parts or behaviors to describe what is nearly impossible to describe otherwise. Michelangelo in his painting of the Sistine Chapel used anthropomorphism - presenting God with a body, his finger extended, nearly touching the finger of Adam.



David's response is full of awe. He also takes up a common view of humanity that is dark and dismal so that he might replace it with God's view and valuation of humanity. Because of humanity's fall into sin, resulting in an unfolding and escalating evil, it is not uncommon for us to take a low view of the human race. But Psalm 8 places humanity as the chief and apex of God's creation. God highly values the human race. He is attentive to the human race and he cares for the human race. He has not abandoned us, but instead he has redeemed and restored us. His "Cultural Mandate" making the human race caretakers of his creation (Genesis 1:28) still stands.

(5-8) David's choice of language here reflects Genesis 1:28 - "The Cultural Mandate." First, he describes God's placement of humanity upon earth. This is our domain. (I hope that Elon Musk makes it to Mars alive, but Mars is not our domain. God has not commanded us to be caretakers of Mars, but of Earth.)

Even though humanity is confined to Earth as the domain in which it is to care for God's creation, God has nevertheless, endowed humanity with "*glory and honor.*" In conferring upon humanity his glory, God shares with us his beauty and authority. In giving to us "The Cultural Mandate," God has conferred upon us honor in that such a purpose and mission for our race is indeed a high and worthwhile task.

In (6) the word, "*dominion*" comes straight from Genesis 1:28 - "*God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over ...'*" It means - care taking! What Moses means by "*fill the earth,*" is that humanity is to spread out evenly throughout the earth so that humans can care for all of God's creation. What Moses means by "*subdue,*" means humanity controlling creation - managing creation so that it

flourishes. Moses' word, "*Rule*" = "Dominion." No other creature is going to manage the whole of creation except for humanity. God has endowed humanity with everything necessary to manage the earth toward fruitfulness. Humanity is able to exercise dominion - care taking of the sea and land creatures, for example. A dolphin, as intelligent as it is, will not do so. A ram or a bull is certainly not going to do so!

(If you are in the majority of our present culture/society, who is crazy in love with dogs as pets, then you should consider this point: The canine breeds we presently enjoy - including the ever popular Labradoodle, that playful, smart and shed-less dog - are the direct result of human domination. Human beings have bred dogs. Dingos and other ancient breeds eat little humans, but tea cup Chihuahua adores her master. She might nip at a stranger, but her mouth is not sufficiently large to eat a human being. Some of us care more for our dogs than we do for our neighbors, who are human beings made in the image of God.)

Yes! Our dominion over "*the fish of the seas and whatever passes along the paths of the seas*" includes our ridding the oceans of plastic, and much more.

The Main Point of Psalm 8 = God has created and empowered humanity to display his beauty and authority through humanity's care taking of his creation.

If we won't do it, nothing else will!

(In the end, God out of his mercy and grace, will restore all creation to its glory. Where humanity has failed, Christ has prevailed! Romans 8 - the whole earth groans, longing for the day when God will restore her - this is actually part of the gospel!)



An Invitation
Courtyard Worship at Sterry
Sunday, May 10 - Mothers Day
- gifts for mothers joining us, or for you to take to a mother offsite -
Sunday, May 17

9:30 a.m.
10:15 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

If you have yet to be assigned to one of these three times for worship, then please call Irene Olivo at the Sterry Office - (208) 722-6201 and she will record your reservation for a particular time.

A Few Preps & Considerations

Please bring your own chairs. (If you forget then we have a limited number of folding chairs for your use. We will provide disinfectant for you to apply at the conclusion of the service.

Respect the 6 feet apart ruling.

Consider whether or not your participation would put you or your loved ones at risk.

Remember the Idaho State recommendation to use face masks in public.

Use the restroom at home just before you drive to Sterry. Our facilities will be locked. Our Worship services are outside events weather permitting.

You are most welcome to join us, but there is no social or religious pressure for you to do so. Most of our sister congregations are not hosting worship services until June because they do not have lovely and adequate outside space, like Sterry's courtyard.

We will video record and post these worship services so that you can watch from the safety of your home, should you decide not to join us on location.