

The Paths of the Seas

Psalm Chapter Eight

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~ There are major differences between our modern age compared to just twenty short years ago. Medicinal, technological, and industrial advances — and simple societal norms — make twenty years ago almost unrecognizable from a contemporary perspective of day-to-day life. However, one thing hasn't changed — at least not for the better — and that is the world-view of God. Our modern sophistication has made man more hostile than ever towards the cause of Christ. Even so, the truths we'll find in this report from our Spiritual Safari are as applicable today as they were in ancient Israel.

This chapter of Psalms is our second *Messianic* Psalm; which means it is quoted in the New Testament, and makes direct reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. This Psalm is quoted three times in the New Testament; one of those times by Jesus Himself — in the so called triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Remember, the children in the temple cried out saying, “... *Hosanna to the son of David.*” The chief priests and scribes asked Jesus, “... *hearest Thou what these say?*” Jesus saith unto them, “*yea, have ye never read? Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou perfected praise.*” That's Matthew chapter twenty-one verse sixteen, by the way. Jesus also said, “*unless you become as little children you will in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven!*”

Paul quotes this Psalm saying, “... *for He hath put all things under His feet.*” It is — or should be — more than obvious that this refers to His second Advent — it doesn't refer to today. We know this is not for today because Paul also says, “... *when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*” Well, no one can say with any credibility that all things are put under Him today. Let's learn the Bible correctly now, for a change. Satan is the god of this world, my friends. That's second Corinthians chapter four verse four — and first Corinthians chapter fifteen verse twenty-seven and twenty-eight.

The fullest quotation of this Psalm is found in Hebrews chapter two; and it makes irrefutably clear that this speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ, by saying, *".... for unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. 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? 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: 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; but now we see not yet all things put under Him."*

So, it would be impossible to assert that this Psalm is for today because all things are *not* in subjection to Him today; and because Hebrews explicitly states this is about the world to come. Any way you slice it, this Psalm looks to the future, friends. God is not finished with the nation Israel. If God is finished with the nation Israel, then He is finished with me and you. The dispensationalist deniers are completely out the window with these incredible quotations in the New Testament from Psalms.

Moreover, it is about Jesus; as the writer to the Hebrews also states in the same chapter, *".... but we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man."* See, it will be a good for most of us to actually read Scripture, pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and study the Word of God in an educated manner so we can learn what we are talking about in our life. If we do that, we just might help someone else along the way....

~~~~~ ~ (To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David)

~ These introductory parenthesis statements are always part of the inspired text. Naturally, there is also always a difference of opinion about what the words mean. The *"Gittith"* is found in other Psalms, and most people accept this as a musical instrument. The Vulgate and the Septuagint translate this to mean a winepress, and speaks of the harvest in the sense of judgment; and that Jesus went into the winepress and tasted the

bitterness of death for you and me. Isaiah tells us that Jesus is coming from Edom, treading out the winepress; and that the juice of the grape that is on His white garment is not His Own Blood but that of the enemy. Quite simply: if you are not saved, and if the Blood of Christ means nothing to you, you will come up for judgment.

And this is a Psalm of judgment; but I have to agree with those who interpret *Gittith* to be a musical instrument – specifically, a lyre – which is a stringed instrument; similar to a small U-shaped harp with strings fixed to a crossbar. One very credible Jewish scholar set this forth to mean an instrument that was invented in Gath where David learned to play it; and at the time he found shelter running from King Saul. David was likely the one who introduced this instrument to Israel. While I think there is some merit in all translations, the latter seems to be the most reasonable.

Other people believe this is the Psalm written at the time of the death of the baby he had with Bathsheba; of which God said would die as a result of David's murder of Uriah, and adultery with his wife. Others ascribe this to the death of Goliath! I, personally, discount both of these interpretations but, frankly, I don't know – and let's not let that get around the internet – but, either way, this Psalm is very deep and is most meaningful....

1 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.

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

~ This is a nature Psalm; and it goes with Psalm nineteen, where we find the Sun and the Scriptures. Interestingly, the “*sun*” is not mentioned in this Psalm. The Lord is the Creator and the world – nature – is the creation; man is the creature. This Psalm ties them all together! We must become like a little baby – and that means being born again. If you want to accept Christ

as your Savior, you are going to have to set aside your boasting and pride, and all of those preconceived notions of self-greatness — and start over. That's precisely where most so-called Christians part ways with Jesus and go horribly wrong.

See, the reason the moon and the stars are where they are is because that's where the Lord Jesus wants them. The reason you and I are who we are, and what we are, and where we are, is because — you guessed it — this is the place Jesus wants us to be. God has ordained everything that exists, my friends. Who hath believed our report? To whom is the bared arm of the Lord revealed? This universe is God's "*finger work*" — and that means He created it all without even half trying. There is a very definite glory in creation, but genuine Christians don't worship those creations. We worship God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ! His glory is above it all. His will be done....

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

~ Man is a supremely complicated creature; and the church is still working on the question in verse four! Mankind is literally stuck in the mud attempting to discover how he arrived here on earth — because mankind simply refuses to believe the Word of God. Well, God created man, and then man went wrong. Why would God be mindful of mankind? Why doesn't God simply wipe us out and be done with us? If God did destroy us, He would still be holy and righteous, friends! Mankind is the single biggest and most miserable failure in the universe.

We have brought a terrible mess to this world. Man has no control whatsoever over the planet today. Science theorizes that they somehow have it all figured out, but they are the ones that polluted us in the first place! Those of you who worship science, I have this advice for you: find another god immediately. This earth is on its way to becoming a universal garbage can. I know you don't like that truth; I know you want to hear a success story. Well, call me a pessimist if you want to — but you'll also have to call me realistic. I don't have any success stories to tell you — and you have none to share, either — because there aren't any....

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.

9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

~ This leg of our Spiritual Safari began with, “.... *how excellent is Thy name in all the earth.*” It also concludes with, “.... *how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!*” Again, this is not a reference to our present hour we live in as I type this report and you read it. In fact, God’s Name is not excellent in any way, shape, or form to this present evil world. I hear men and women take the Name of the Lord in vain in ways that are absolutely uncalled for. Even the most refined and gentle looking women, and the old man who is standing on the threshold of eternity, doesn’t think twice about profaning the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ today. Most of it is done in pure ignorance. Try to have a conversation with an atheist, and you’ll hear the nastiest, bitterest, and most contemptuous hate for Jesus spewed without reservation. No, friends, His Name is not excellent in all the world today.

In fact, most people simply deny Jesus as God. Some insurance policies still have exclusions for “*acts of God*” – as if God were running around destroying everything He created in the first place. Others claim “*Jesus*” this and that — but only for credibility with a certain group. It’s all lip-service; they deny the power of God. That’s the only publicity God really gets. The world and society just happen to *purposefully* leave Him out. The schools and universities don’t want God there. The so-called broad-minded liberal who champions every cause under the sun from Muslims to pornographers to homosexual perversion only talk about a liberal Jesus that never existed. This world flatly rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as God.

Naturally, the liberal only denies liberty to one class of people: the Bible believing Christian. I am the only one who doesn't have liberty. I would like to have prayer in school for my children, and prayer in public places that recognize this nation is a Godly nation; but the closest thing we have to that is a moment of silence – and a moment of silence is nothing in the world but one wasted minute! It means nothing to anyone. Who do we think we are kidding? No, I don't have liberty in the cause of Christ. They will not hear me — and God's Name is not excellent to them. That argument is dead.

Interestingly, I hear men talk of mountain climbing, for example — and the tremendous thrill of summiting. They say they heard the mountain talking back to them, saying man was nothing. But, still no mention of God from them. Well, the tops of the mountains are just a bunch of dirt, rocks, and maybe a few trees, if it isn't frozen over with ice and snow. It's all the same as the earth is *below* sea level. What man mistakes as nature telling him he is nothing is really God telling man that man is nothing! Well, man always discovers how insignificant he is — sooner or later; but he never discovers how great God is. Man loves to talk about nature. How utterly mundane and blasé the topic.

This Psalm is a prophecy that looks to a glorious future, friends. In Psalm two, we saw man in rebellion to and with an abject rejection of God. In this Psalm, we see God's man emphasizing the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ; and His ultimate victory as a Man. When God's Name shall become excellent, the man of God will gain total and complete control as they reign and rule with Christ over all the earth. That's not happening today. When it does happen, you're still only going to see Him by faith! It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but when He shall appear, we shall be like Him. What a glorious prospect of hope there is for the genuine child of God. What a wonderful book of the Bible we are studying now. We're just standing on the very outer fringe of glory; glory that sings praises to our Savior ~

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