



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## How Excellent Is Thy Name

Consider David, the shepherd boy who became king, as he would be out on a clear, cloudless night, gazing into the heavens and meditating about the Creator and His creation. He would later write, *“O Jehovah, our Lord, How excellent is thy name in all the earth, Who hast set thy glory upon the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou established strength, Because of thine adversaries, That thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him but little lower than God, And crownest him with glory and honor. Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, Yea, and the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Jehovah, our Lord, How excellent is thy name in all the earth!”* (Psalm 8 ASV).

Think about what David wrote. Jehovah is worthy of all praise and adoration. Truly His name is excellent above all as the Sovereign Ruler of the universe. David mentions the evidence of that in the first two verses. It is found in the heavens where He has set His glory. It is even seen in the most feeble of human beings, infants. Consider the complexities of human development, birth, and life. As one considers this, the evidence of God’s existence, power, and character is seen. Certainly, Jehovah is worthy of all honor and glory.

When today one considers the heavens, as David did, there is a far advanced knowledge of God’s creation. It is now known that our galaxy, being 100,000 light years across, contains billions of stars. A light year is how far light travels — at 186,000 miles per second — in a year. The nearest star to our sun is 24 trillion miles away, 4.3 light years. The

nearest galaxy to ours is about 2 million light years away. Galaxies are grouped into clusters. There is a cluster of about 2500 galaxies some 60 million light years away. About 300 million light years away there is a cluster of about 10,000 galaxies, each with between 10 and 100 billion stars.

When one gazes into the heavens, it is natural to think of the insignificance of oneself in this vast universe. Though David was not denigrating man, he asked as he considered the vastness, yet the intricacy, of this universe, *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”* After all, why should God take such an interest in one so insignificant in this vast universe.

Yet, David points out that man is not insignificant in the eyes of God. He has been made by God but a little lower than God. He has been crowned with glory by God, being made in His image, given dominion over God’s creation. Though man may regard himself as insignificant, God created the earth for his habitation (Isaiah 45:18). Man is worth more than the entire universe (Matthew 16:26; John 3:16; Hebrews 2:9).

David then reviews some things made subject to man. He has been given dominion over all animals, domestic and wild. He has dominion over the birds of the air. He has dominion over the fish of the sea and all the inhabitants of the paths of the seas. God has given him dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:17-28).

It is appropriate, then, that David would end the psalm in the same way he began. *“O Jehovah, our Lord, How excellent is thy name in all the earth!”*

Terry Mabery