



Empowering People to Change the World

**The Glory of God in Man
Psalm 8
Steve Holt**

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Psalm 8

I want to continue what Pastor Ryan started last week about the beauty of God. I really like the way Pastor Ryan said that the cosmos is the “declaration of God” to us.

Verse 1

- Indeed, “every person is drawn to beauty,” writes Thomas Dubay, author of the magisterial work, *The Evidential Power of Beauty*. (His book has inspired me deeply in understanding beauty in theology and science.)
- Whether it be a night sky of endless stars, golden aspen trees lining a mountain, or an epic movie soundtrack, all men and women note beauty when they see it or experience it.
- Ex. Ryan shared about our Roosevelt Elk Camp. Early morning hunting with my boys and seeing the shooting stars...

Beauty packs power.

- Whether it be seen on a landscape or experienced in solidly grounded truth, we are impacted at the heart level.
- The cosmos preaches the Gospel. God created the heavens and earth with an eye for beauty.

Genesis 1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void (chaotic); and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)

- God takes chaos and creates order. This is the way of God in all of His creation; order being formed out of chaos.

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the

darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.' Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.'" (Genesis 1:3-8)

Romans 1:19-20

"What may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:19-20)

- There is no excuse for not believing in God. The heavenly sky speaks. The night speaks. The rivers speak. The flowers speak. The gardens speak. Beauty and creation preach the Gospel.
- New discoveries in science, cosmology, and physics are trumpeting the power of beauty.
- God's greatest sermon is the order of ALL of creation - complex, intricate, and beautiful.

Nobel prize winner Richard Feynman has said, "you can recognize truth by its beauty and simplicity."

- Biochemist Lewis Thomas experienced the power of beauty when he discovered that every species of animal on the paleontological strata is perfect according to its kind.
- New discoveries in the early stages of formation of human beings in a mother's womb have pointed to the perfection of God's design. The unmatched beauty of the lives of the saints in history leave us in awe when we discover and read about their testimonies.

- God takes chaos and brings order! Truth is revealed by the order it brings.
- Yet, it's not complete. It is God's highest creation that brings order out of chaos—man created in the image of God.

Dubay writes,

“A heroically holy man or woman is the pinnacle of visible creation and proof in the flesh that both science and revelation are right.” (Thomas Dubay)

Verse 2

- God's highest creation is a baby! Yes, our children are created in the image of God.

Every baby is a testimony of the glory of God!

- Babies ordain power! Did you know that? Ever think of that? Power is packed in every baby!
- Now think of this, church: every time a little baby cries out, every time a baby nurses, God is ordaining strength.
 - Nursing babies, crying babies silence the enemy!
 - When you birth a child, when your baby cries out, when your baby nurses, you are involved in spiritual warfare!
 - Imagine that! The enemy is silenced by the mouths of babies!
 - No wonder Satan hates children. No wonder the greatest evil in humankind is infant sacrifice. This is why the greatest decision of the past 100 years was made by our Supreme Court to knock down Roe v Wade! Millions of babies will be saved as a result.
 - Babies do warfare against the enemy!

Verses 3-5

- David is amazed that even as he looks out upon the glory of God in creation - the stars, the moon, the sun, all of it - even with such wonderful illustrations of God's glory, He has created man, human beings, as His highest order.
- We are crowned with glory and honor! Above all of the created order, we are crowned with glory and honor.

Every believer carries the Glory of God with him/her.

- The word is glory—kabowd
 - *Kabowd* is one the most significant words in the Hebrew language.
 - It means "weight" and figuratively denotes "splendor, abundance, honor, or glory."
 - It can also mean fame, reputation, strength, and dignity.
 - Ex. Today we use the word *weight* in a similar way. We might say a person "carries a lot of weight" or influence in something.
 - We are crowned with God's kabowd; God's glory and honor is upon people.
- God's greatest order is the human. How is it that God has made humans to be crowned with His glory and honor?
 - It means God's attributes, His presence, His brilliance, His virtues are within us.
 - But we largely lost it by sin.
 - Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory."
 - Christ came to restore the glory of God in our lives.

- But we were created to manifest God's glory through our lives.

Verses 6-9

- God creates the heavens and the earth—full of His beauty and glory. But then on the sixth day, He creates His crowning “magnum opus,” man—*adam*—man and women, He created. Look at His description of purpose.

Man is the magnum opus of God.

Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 1:26-28.

Genesis 1:26-28, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

Four Characteristics of the Glory of God in Every Believer

1) Made Like God—in His Image, in His Likeness

- We have a soul.
- We have a conscience.
- We are the imago Dei, the image-bearers of God.

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

We are His workmanship— *poiēma*, a poem of God.

- **We reflect the nature and character of God like no other created thing.**
 - **Every person has unique worth and dignity—no matter one’s ethnic background, color of their skin, or socio-economic status. Everyone has dignity before God.**
 - **We have a spirit, and this spirit is filled with God’s Spirit if we are Christians.**
- Trillia Newbell writes, “Understanding our equality as image-bearers changes everything about our human relationships. As image-bearers, we should view others as God views us. One way the Lord identifies us—and I’d argue this is the most important differentiation—is as either in Christ or not in Christ. C.S. Lewis said it best when he wrote in *The Weight of Glory*.” “All people are immortals...take all your relationships seriously.” (C.S. Lewis)
- There is no one walking the earth who is not in need of the Gospel. We are a part of humanity, each one of us heading toward either heaven or hell.
- It takes the power of the Gospel to transform an image-bearer’s heart of stone and bring it into worship and delight of God. The only way for a heart to be aflame for God is through the pursuing, saving grace of God, which takes our hearts and transforms them from hearts of stone to hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).
- The Christian who understands his nature before God is eager to share with his fellow man.

2) Made to Have Dominion

- Dominion authority begins with our own hearts and minds.
- The great lesson of the Jesus-follower is to take dominion over one’s own life.
- This is the struggle of every image bearer - “How do I lead my own heart? How do I take dominion over my own life?”

Romans 6

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin...

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Romans 6:5-7, 14)

Romans 8

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death...

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:1-2, 37-39)

Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

3) Made as Masculine and Feminine

- Not to compete but to complement each other. God made us in all ways to be equal.
- Wherever Christianity is gone in every culture, equality of rights has always followed.
- Equal and complementary in nature and ministry together.

Complementary is defined as “something that completes or makes perfect; either of two parts or things needed to complete the whole; counterparts.”

- God created them male and female to show complementary expressions of the image of God—counterparts of the glory of God.
- Liz carries the kabowd of God in ways I can't. And vice versa. She complements me, and I complement her.

4) Made to Be Fruitful and Multiply

- Men and women are to be fruitful and multiply!
- This is not just about having children, though it does mean that, for sure. But it is that we would, as God's image-bearers, as people who have dominion, be fruitful in all we do.

Jesus tells a parable of a man who called his servants together and gave each of them talents or a form of money and left on a journey. He gave one five talents, another two, and another one. This is found in Matthew 25. Both the servant with the five talents and the servant with two talents went and traded and doubled their talents.

The master returned and said to them “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”
(Matthew 25:21)

Jesus said, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

The Glory of God is manifested in us through:

- 1) Image bearer—the Manifestation of God**
- 2) Take Dominion**
- 3) Made Masculine and Feminine**
- 4) Be Fruitful and Multiply**