

## *PSALM 8*

This psalm was meant as an act of praise to God for his great goodness to man in the works both of creation and redemption. Its direct reference to the Messiah is proved by the words of our Saviour to the chief priests and scribes in the temple: "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?" And again, in Hebrews 2:4-6, the verses of this psalm are quoted. When composing it, David must have had in view the starry heavens. He is struck with the awful magnificence of the firmament. And then, turning his thoughts to man in his fallen nature, exclaims, "Lord, what is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you visit him?"--that you should send your Anointed to take our nature and bring salvation to us, thereby exalting us once more to the dignity of being your children and holding out the prospect of still further exaltation to your kingdom in heaven.

Whether, then, we consider the dominion that is given us over the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, or the fishes of the sea for our temporal sustenance; or whether we consider the fellowship hereafter with angels and with God himself, to whom we are mercifully called through Jesus Christ, let us join heart and mind in exclaiming, "O Yahweh, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the world!"

### **For the choir director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of David.**

- 1 O YAHWEH, 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 YAHWEH, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## PRAYER

*O Lord God, Father of men and angels, Creator of the world, who has made all things in a wonderful order and appointed them all to minister for good to mankind, give us great and awesome apprehensions of your glory and immensity, your majesty and mercy, that we may adore you as our Creator, love you as our Redeemer, and obey you as our Governor. And since you have showed your mercy in visiting and redeeming us, grant that we may never be unmindful of this your inestimable love, nor cease to praise you for the means of grace and hopes of glory thus bestowed upon us. Keep us from abusing your creatures, over whom you have given us power, but give us grace to use them with such temperance that your name may be still more magnified and your providence more declared. Make us have a perpetual fear and love of your holy name, and grant that we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*