

“How Excellent!”

I. INTRO:

- A. **Next Wed night 7pm:** Keeping Our Families Safe on the Internet.
 - 1. **FBI Special Agent Jeff Stiff** (Violent Crime Squad, Riverside) & **Det. Bernie Trapp**, LA Sheriff SAFE Task Force (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement)
 - 2. They will be covering internet related crimes such as child pornography & individuals who use the internet to entice minors for sex.
- B. **Prayer:** *The job of the preacher is to **comfort** the *afflicted*, & **afflict** the *comfortable*!
 - 1. You decide which you need tonight!*
- C. **Open:** When **Henry Norris Russell**, the *Princeton astronomer*, had concluded a lecture on **the Milky Way**, a woman came to him and asked, “If our world is so little, and the universe is so great, can we believe God really pays any attention to us?” Dr. Russell replied, “That depends, madam, entirely on **how big a God you believe in.**” :)
- D. **Ps.8** - a poetic description of man’s place in creation!
 - 1. We will lean on the aid of the NT *references, commentary & insight* on Ps.8.

II. HOW EXCELLENT!

- A. **INTRO!** (1,9)
- B. **Intro:** Some Psalms were **historical** & some **musical**. (usually designated in the intro)
 - 1. This one is obviously musical.
 - 2. **On the instrument of Gath** - (Heb.) *Al Gittith*(*ghit-TEETH*). (**Gittith** = winepress, also designated a musical instrument shaped like a winepress)
 - a) The Greeks took the word & the instrument it represented & called it **Kithara**, from that we get the spanish **guitarria**, from which we get our english **guitar**!¹
 - b) Davids’ looked more like a harp(zither).
- C. **A Psalm of David** - maybe as a shepherd boy looking into the sky? (1)
- D. (1,9) The **Theme** is given in the bookends (1,9).
 - 1. **It’s a hymn of praise** of the Lord of creation.
 - 2. **It’s purpose** is to praise the Creator **by** a meditation upon His creation, esp **man**!
 - a) **Man**, which is God’s **Masterpiece**; His **Magnum Opus**; His **pièce de résistance**.

¹ Ray Stedman, Psalm 8.

- E. Any time a Psalm is quoted in the NT & applied to Jesus, this makes it *a messianic Psalm*.
1. Heb.2:6-8; 1Cor.15:27; Mt.21:15,16; Eph.1:22.
 2. Heb.2:6-8 Read(vs8 we still see floods, earthquakes, plagues. Vs9 BUT WE SEE JESUS!)
 3. 1Cor.15:27 For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority.
 - a) Both of these passages show Christ has **regained** all that Adam lost because of sin.
 - b) Christ has been exalted above the heavens & thus has glorified God's name (Eph.1:19-23)
- F. **O Lord, our Lord** -
1. The 1st Lord = Jehovah/*The cov keeping God*. The God who **keeps His promises**.
 2. The 2nd Lord = Adonai/*The Sovereign*. The One who has not only the **ability** but the **authority**.
 - a) **O Lord**[the *promise-making* God] **our Lord**[the sovereign who has the power to keep His promises], **how excellent is Your name in all the earth**.
- G. **How excellent** - Extremely good. Outstanding. Also translated in other places: Noble, mighty, famous, gallant/brave, glorious, worthy.
- H. **Outline**: Made to be Stronger Than *Earthly* Kings; Made to be Just Like Our King; Saved to Live Like A King
- I. **MADE TO BE STRONGER THAN *Earthly* KINGS!** (2)
- J. When Christ was ministering on earth, He was not praised by the **priests or kings**; **it was the little children** who praised Him in the Temple.
1. Mt.21:15,16 **But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"**
 - a) God can use the **weakness** of babies to reveal His great **strength**.
 - b) Good news...If He can use **infants**...He can use **us!**
- K. **MADE TO BE JUST LIKE OUR KING!** (3-5)
- L. (3) **When I...** - Where in vs.1 the "**our**" suggests **the congregation** at worship; **here** the "I" speaks to our **personal** involvement.
1. **Do you consider?** Him? His work? Your uniqueness?
- M. **The work of your fingers** - Just His fingers(speaking of ease in which He executed it)
1. Reminds me of these ease in which children make castles in the sand, or mud pies.
- N. (3b) David is picturing a night scene.

O. (4) **Mindful of him** - he bears toward him a fatherly love, defends & cherishes him, & extends his providence towards him.

P. **Visit him** - When Jesus came to earth, it was God *visiting* men.

1. Like in Lk.1:68,78 **Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,...Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us.**

Q. This Psalm exalts the dignity of man.

1. Vs.5 should read **"You have made him a little lower than God."**
2. We are the greatest of God's creations, for we are *made in the image of God*.
3. **Why are we so messed up/mixed up today?**
 - a) Modern teaching has **lowered man** to an *animal* & **rejected** the *image of God*.
 - b) **No wonder** why we as humans have no problem discarding hundreds of thousand **human babies**, **yet** will spend millions of \$ to free a **beached whale**.
 - c) **No wonder** we have such civil unrest, so much brutality.
 - d) Mankind has dethroned God & debased humanity.
4. **Let us never forget** our **obligation** as **creatures** made in God's image, **and** our **greater obligation** as **saints** being renewed in this image through Christ.

R. **SAVED TO LIVE LIKE A KING!** (6-8)

S. (6) **Dominion** - I used to see this as, **"I can squish this bug if I want to! *I have dominion!!!*"**

1. The Lord **has placed humans in charge of everything he has made**.
2. But remember it's *the wonderful providence of God* that horses & oxen yield their **service** to men; that sheep **produce wool** to clothe them; that all sorts of animals supply us with **food** for our nourishment & support, even from their own flesh.²

T. So here's how it went...

1. In Gen.1:26-28 God gave man dominion(rule) over the **fish**, the **fowl**, & the **cattle**.
2. Man was **made a little lower than God** & was appointed God's deputy over the earth.
3. **But when Adam sinned, he lost that dominion**.
 - a) The only way we can achieve dominion over the animal world is by intimidation, **"Obey me or I'll eat you or wear you!"** (Kent Hughes)
4. Rom.5 points out that there was a change of "kings": **death reigned**(Rom.5:14,17); **& sin reigned**(Rom.5:21); **but** Adam no longer reigned.
 - a) Instead of a **king**, Adam became a **slave**.

² Calvin, Day 13, Jan.13 Ps.8:6-9

5. When Christ came to earth, He exercised the dominion Adam had lost.
- Christ ruled over the **fish** - Lk5(fish in net); Mt17:27(coin in fish mouth); Jn21:1-6(fish in net)
 - Christ ruled over the **fowl** - Lk.22:34(rooster crow)
 - Christ ruled over the **beasts** - Mrk 1:13(Jesus in wilderness w/wild beasts); Mrk11:1-7 (donkey never ridden)
 - No one on earth could control nature the way Jesus did.
6. Christ has given us **dominion**; this means that we reign as **kings**.
- We can reign in **life** through Christ, **getting** victory over sin & temptation. (Rom. 5:17)
 - We reign in **death** for death no more has dominion over us. (1Cor.15:54-57)
 - We shall reign in **His kingdom** here on earth.
 - We shall reign **with Him** forever and ever.

U. So, when God saved you, He made you a king!

- You may not **look like** one **or act like** one, **but** you **are** one!
- Your day of **salvation** was a day of **coronation**.
- God put you on the throne through Jesus Christ. (Then why do you live like a slave?)
- You've been saved to **live like a king**. Don't **live like a slave**!
- We believer's have a responsibility to live like kings.
 - Not, "live it up"! But, the responsibility of one. With sober-mindedness.
 - I watched the *edited* version of **The King's Speech** on the airplane. (1 cuss scene/taken out)
 - When **King George V** dies **David** accedes the throne. But, he has a **playboy image**, **can't marry a divorced American Socialite**. Eventually chooses her instead of the throne. So when David/King Edward VIII does in fact abdicate the throne to marry, **Bertie** becomes King George VI.
 - We believer's have a responsibility to live like kings!

V. (8) On a monument erected by the state of Virginia to the memory of **Matthew Maury** is found a plaque that reads as follows: "Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the genius who first snatched from the **oceans** and **atmosphere** the secret of their laws. His inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8, Ecclesiastes 1:6." A **genius**? No. Just a simple Bible-believing Christian who trusted the inerrancy of the Word of God. - DTG³

³ Our Daily Bread, September 14, 1987

W. If David has reason to *praise* God for his **position** & his **victory**, **how much more** should **we** praise Him.⁴

1. Who are we that God should **visit us**?
2. Who are we that God should **die for us** & **lift us up** to live w/Him?

X. So, the proper response to all of this?

1. ***Explode with praise*** to our Great God Who is *above the Heavens!*

⁴ Warren Wiersbe, Outlines of the NT, Ps.8