

Psalms 18-06-28

This is Thursday the 28th of June 2018 we continue our study in the book of Psalms and we continue our study of Psalm 8 we began this one last week and we are going to pick up after the first couple of verses that we looked at last time let's take a moment as we begin to ask the Lord's blessing on our study and to have his Holy Spirit do his work in the communication and in the reception and then we'll begin father what a privilege it is to be called by your name to be known as your possession sealed forever in Christ by your Holy Spirit Redeemed transformed given a future and a hope we have so many wonderful Blessings to dwell upon and to thank you for we appreciate the opportunity to spend time together learning and growing and coming to a better understanding of what you would have us do in this life as we prepare for the next and we pray that as we look at this portion of your word together tonight that your Holy Spirit will minister it to each heart in a way that is effective and meaningful and that makes a difference for how we think how we decide and how we act as we look for that day when the Lord Jesus will come and take us to himself and if we are qualified present us before your throne, we pray all these things in Jesus name. Amen We are as I said picking up our study in Psalm 8 and if you've not already turned to it, this would be a good time to do so Psalm 8 says Oh Lord our Lord. How excellent is your name in all the earth? Who have set your glory above the heavens? quick review here Oh Lord our Lord we noticed something there.

Do you remember what it was? Difference in the typeface which tells us there are two different Hebrew words used and it's important Oh Yahweh our Adonai right and interestingly Adonai is actually a plural that we sort of call this the Plural of majesty or the plural of greatness in the same way that Elohim is translated in the singular as God Which is important for the portion. We're going to cover tonight This This form of Adonai is plural I don't know here our Lord's is what it would literally say So It just is an intensification. It's a plural of intensity Mayim waters is a plural of intensity Why is that important here When you first start a psalm it's helpful to know what the context is it's hard at the beginning to have a context So what context has been established you remember the superscription? It was all get teeth and That wasn't a dental allusion That is not necessarily an allusion to Gath Although some some think that it is this is a This is a reference to the winepress and Gath the Philistine City was named because it was probably a place where there was a prominent winepress in the ancient day so upon the winepress song the treading of the grapes song and Coincidentally earlier today.

I was editing a sermon which as you know is my job and it had to do with the Passage in Isaiah that talks about who is this who comes from Edom with his garments dyed red and coming from Basra and so on and Many think that this is a prefiguring of the Lord Jesus and that it has to do with his crucifixion But if you look at the context The reason his garments are red is that he has been treading the winepress of God's wrath And this is the blood of his enemies that is on his garments that are dyed red And this is looking forward not to the Lord Jesus in his first coming But in his second coming which will be the Armageddon blood as high as the horse's bridles type of thing so This song when you think about the winepress when you

think about the cup of God's wrath You could say well couldn't it be the land flowing with with Milk and honey and and clusters of grapes and so on but do you remember when the spies were sent into the land? What did they bring back from their reconnaissance They brought back the cluster of grapes was so big they had to like put it on a stick and had to guys carry it back these enormous grapes, but was that a Portent of things to come in terms of prosperity and benefit it actually was a harbinger of judgment because They were about to be judged for their lack of faith to go in and take the land So when you see grapes, they are more often than not grapes of wrath Remember the the song of the vineyard. I will I will sing a song of my vineyard. I planted around and hedged it and It didn't bear and I took care of it Again, and again when you see grapes when you see the fruit of the vine It so often in the Bible speaks of judgment the We Alluded to this last time.

What was the upper room? symbology of the contents of the cup this cup is the promise of prosperity for the future This cup is the new covenant in what? in my blood it is Judgment that has to take place and cleansing and purging that has to take place in and through that blood Before there can be the drinking of this new with you in the kingdom so It's no accident that David sets this not on an instrument of gath, but I would submit Upon the winepress Tune it is set to the winepress song and so even as he celebrates what we see in these verses there is this background of Of judgment So then when he says Oh Yahweh our Adonai This is God's personal covenant name to Israel Yahweh revealed to Moses given to them as they left Egypt and were embarking upon their journey to the Promised Land but he's not Oh Lord our Abba, Oh Lord our good friend. Oh Lord our cuddly Entity with a long white beard and a friendly lap up in the sky He is Adonai Lords have the power of judgment they have authority This is why our Savior is called the Lord Jesus Christ What's the last thing he told the disciples before he ascended one of the last things all? Authority is given to me in heaven and in earth all authority so when David launches this song it begins with a recognition both of the covenant closeness of the name Yahweh and the respectful acknowledgement of power and authority and Upon this particular tune authority as it is expressed in judgment, and you've got to get the setting It's just like the first few There used to be first few bars of a song I often leap ahead and forget to finish my sentence I'm trying to cure myself of that there used to be a program and there would be contestants where It was called like name that tune And they would begin with the first few bars of a song and you've got your panelists there and the first ones to smack The buzzer and and there are people and you are among them You can hear I promise you there is one particular electric guitar chord Played all by itself and you will immediately know the song that's coming up Anybody that has in this country that has ever heard the Beatles? Knows the single chord that begins a hard day's night It's the most famous guitar chord in human history and George Harrison hits it I Forget what it is It's a ninth over a thirteenth or something But he hits it and everybody immediately knows you don't even have to hear the rest to know you can play the rest of the song in your head well the the first introductory parts of a song Set the tone for what comes My favorite all-time arrangement of summertime with Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald Begins with an instrumental I it's by Nelson Riddle or somebody but there's there's a little Solo at the beginning and it casts it in a minor key and you just get ready for that

gorgeous pair of performances So Don't miss the introduction. It takes time.

We we want to rush. We want to Snapchat we want to get the gist we want, you know a tweet We want something short and quick and to the point but in the ancient day people took their time They would digest a thing. They would Explore a thing and just take their time You imagine David on a hillside at night with his shepherd's crook in his hand sheep quietly resting He could look up and spend hours in Contemplation and in prayer and in appreciation and Certainly the memory of that informs a lot of this song Oh Lord our Lord two different names How excellent and this word excellent the the root meaning of this Hebrew word is wide it means vast it's like Coming into a huge Open plain after passing through a gorge it's coming over a hill after you've been hiking through the mountains or or hills and Suddenly here is a vast sweeping panorama a vista open to view and You can imagine and if you've seen pictures and been fortunate enough to actually maybe go to The Middle East and to Israel and look at some of the vistas down in the Shephelah in in in the Judean hillsides and plains there are breathtaking views and This is the word your name is Like a view of the Grand Canyon, it's just vast How vast how wide how? Majestic is Your name and we spent a good portion of last time talking about name, so you should remember What it is to baptize in the name to do something in the Lord's name? it isn't just to speak it or to invoke it like a charm or a talisman or a Mantra it is to invest a thing with the character and to associate it with the person of The bearer of that name how vast how majestic is your name? your reputation your The account of who and what you are in all the earth Then who have set and you remember set is the verb not on it is from not on and it means to give It is given Your glory given above the heavens and The name that God reflects Establishes and promotes in the earth.

What's in the earth to recognize God's name? It's really only us right we've got Pets pets don't know anything about God's name. It's us. We are on the earth, but our Perception and appreciation of who and what God is Gives his glory above the heavens this is why angels watch us This is why they long to look into the things that are happening.

They they have seats in the stadium and human history is the focus and when God's name is is Manifest in your life in your thoughts in your prayers in your experience it Shines God's glory like a Sun that is just below the horizon either at sunrise or sunset It may not be directly visible But the reflection of it and the glory of it is manifest throughout the heavens reflected in and through the clouds and refracted through the atmosphere So the things that happen on earth Scatter God's glory give God's glory above the heavens Then in verse 2 he amplifies this idea that there is something happening on earth That is easily missed something seemingly small on earth is Actually something large out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength this is O's and It is often as a noun translated stronghold We talked last time that our faith is Effective for the pulling down of strongholds. Hopefully you've still got that reference from last time pulling down of strongholds Out of our mouths now Do you trust with your mouth? What is it we do with our mouth what comes out of our mouth through which God has ordained strength a stronghold Do you ever notice how? Verbal expression is emphasized in the Bible. We've talked about this in reference to prayer, right? Evening and morning and at

noon will I pray and cry aloud and he will hear my voice They knew Daniel was praying because they could hear what he was saying when he got locked up and cast into the lion's den The Lord Jesus we have the content of his prayers because John Remembered what he heard as the Lord Jesus prayed out loud Jesus prayed to his father from the cross and we have his recorded words because they came out of his mouth What comes out of our mouth primarily? prayer out of the mouths of Seemingly weak and insignificant small people babes and even smaller than babes You can use the word baby for anything up to toddler age But a suckling infant those are the smallest of them That's that's as soon as you're born you're a suckling infant, and then you might be weaned, but you're still a baby You're just a weaned baby babes and suckling infants Nursing infants you the Lord have ordained had decreed have Implemented Strength it comes from an unlikely source and we've often seen Think of the themes of reversal that you remember in the Bible the older is supposed to Under primogeniture inherit everything right, but what often happens in the Bible? Esau and Jacob Cain and Abel and Then the substitute for Abel which is Seth such a beautiful picture there every time I think about Cain and Abel and Seth I think about Leviticus 14 and the and the leper or you can think about Azazel the the scapegoat But you remember in the cleansing of the leper you've got the dove and he's slain over over a bowl of living water and Then the the dead birds blood is mixed with water and then the living bird is dipped in it and set free and so you have two birds to represent death and Resurrection you can't have a resurrection every time a leper gets cleansed, so it's a picture of resurrection Azazel slain goat and a living goat bearing the dead goats blood identity the priests Sprinkled with blood everything in the Tabernacle and in the in the Old Testament law sanctified sprinkled with blood why it is alive Having died it looks as though it has paid the death price for sin and yet.

It's alive It's a it's a picture of life in in Christ the future Christ. It's a picture of resurrection It's a picture of so many things So you have that reversal out of what seems to be dead there is life out of what seems to be last it's going to be first and what seems to be helpless and Weak God has ordained strength Just when you think you are weakest and most helpless and most inadequate That is where God can do his work the thorn in the flesh Passage for Paul three times he prayed that God would remove the thorn God said no My strength is made manifest in your weakness So Paul says when I am weak, then I am strong when I'm a babe Then God has ordained strength, but it's out of the mouth If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead You will be saved right So that's a verse and a half Why has God done this is he just amusing himself by doing the unexpected We have the answer in the last part of chapter 1 verse 2 or chapter 8 verse 2 because of your enemies that you may silence the enemy and The Avenger and this is really where we pick up this morning now Our this evening now, what day is it? What time is it? Who am I? Why am I here? Bless Admiral Stockdale, sorry, he was a believer and I'm I'm gonna look forward to meeting him a second time But that's one of my all-time favorite quotes and it comes from him. Who am I? Why am I here? Because of your enemies that you may silence the enemy and the Avenger now if the weak people of this earth are Implementing God-ordained strength with what they say and what issues from their mouths Who is the enemy and who is the Avenger?

well, you could say it's Other humans, but is David's view that those who are not connected to God who don't Have him as their Lord and as their covenant God that they are strong and because you belong to God you're naturally weak The key of course is back in verse 1 you have given your glory above Above the heavens and there is an allusion here to Something greater than the babes and the sucklings a more mature civilization an older civilization with more history and more experience and I think that this is an indirect allusion to the angelic hosts and In this particular case the fallen angelic hosts Who are the enemies of God? you could say well there are Philistines and Moabites and Ammonites and Edomites and Hivites and archites and all the other ites the Egyptians Maybe they are the enemies of God, but they are really in the Old Testament the enemies of Israel, right? Who are the enemies of God? Once again this would suggest The enemy and the Avenger are of an order higher than mankind in general Well that brings us to verse 3 when I consider your heavens the work of your fingers The moon and the stars which you have ordained.

There's that word ordained again the first thing God has ordained in this psalm is Strength a stronghold a stronger stronghold than the enemy and the Avenger has and it is implemented and activated and Enjoyed by the babes and suckling infants Second thing that is said to be ordained here David says I consider your heavens Notice almost everything in here. This is the second mention Where was the first mention of the heavens Back in verse 1 you have given your glory above the heavens When I consider your heavens that has your glory above it because of what you've done in the earth The work of your fingers Now why isn't it the work of his hands? Why isn't it just his work? Why is it the work of his fingers? and Because we've read a little bit further in here You may remember down in verse 6 you have made him man to have dominion over the works of your hands When I consider the works of your fingers then later on he says you've given man over the dominion of the works of your hands Why fingers in one place why hands another I asked myself I? I ask you why do you think it's fingers in the first instance and hands in the second is it level of difficulty? and Is finger work different than hand work? Different than arm work. You know there's another passage that talks about the the arm of the Lord has brought about salvation and It's an oft-made comparison that scattering the stars in the universe was finger work, but accomplishing our salvation was arm work and Creation of everything in the earth over which God has given man dominion is here said to be his handiwork his hand work well significant poetic Variation, what do you think? Well, here's what I think I Get to say what I think When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers David is looking at the vastness of the heavens, right? But what is in the heavens that he's looking at if you think about the universe? What is it mostly? Space and every Few hundred or thousand light-years you have what a star? How big do the stars appear from Earth? Like Little pinholes ancient man other than Israelites often used to think that there was a great black globe Surrounding the earth and there were just pinholes in it light was shining through from the great beyond there.

They're just pinholes So if you look at the sky Say in terms of a painting or in terms of something that God would put there for man to view Would this be arm work hand work or

finger work to Put the Milky Way and the stars from our perspective its finger work and It's its language of accommodation now that we know about the stellar furnaces that produce the elements in the vast Galaxies and you know Hubble pictures and the rest of it We have a different perspective but up until the last hundred years up until Not lay one oak. He was the microscope somebody else invented the telescope, but up until the telescope We didn't really know that the stars were vast We didn't know that they were huge. We didn't know that they most of them are bigger than our Sun so What we don't know and That this is a theme by the way, this is a point from our perspective Maybe it's finger work but Ask a scientist to crank up a star just one even a small one even a a test case sample small star You know, we we recognize now how how we have an inkling of how big it is to create just one star God has created uncountable billions of them and organized them into galaxies and and scattered them in a a designed way throughout the universe But to David That's finger work to us without science It's its finger work and we don't realize it's invisible to us.

Do you see my point? We don't always know the vastness of what God has done when we look at the simplicity of what's visible to us Man used to look at life Darwin looked at life and thought well We've got a layman oak did invent the microscope and we've seen these little blobs that it's made of so it's something Made out of very simple building blocks now We know that they are extremely complicated DNA and and multiple levels of programming within DNA And where is the software? we know that DNA has the coding for proteins that build flesh and bone and skin and nerve and sinew and such but Where is the code for your sneezing and your yawning? Where is the code for your stretching dog stretch cat stretch? chicken stretch people stretch there's stretch coding Somewhere if it's all physical then it's somewhere in the DNA. Well science has no earthly idea where that is When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers and when we consider the work of God's fingers what we need to realize is How little we know? We have been given almost nothing of angelic history. We've been given almost nothing of the actual process of creation How did God create the stars we've got a little bit more sequence and process in Genesis 1 and 2 for creation particularly of man, but We have no details on how God created the stars But we should not underestimate what it took to do it The work of your fingers now, he says the moon and the stars which you have ordained now You're thinking about God's glory in the heavens here is your pop quiz question for the night Are you ready in the heavens if you were going to pick something as a symbol of glory? What's the biggest most glorious thing in the sky? We put it this way if you were outside today, what was the hottest thing in the sky? if You're reaching for something that's going to be a symbol of glory.

What would you choose? You can say it out loud the Sun right what does David pick I Consider you're having the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have ordained What about the Sun where's the Sun why is it the moon and the stars? Also, keep in mind that we said last time that there is an obvious allusion David is familiar with Genesis right And he knows the story of creation. He's heard it down At the place of worship many times. Where is the place of worship in David's day, by the way? Do they have a tabernacle yes or no No Remember when

David's a little boy, it's just after the time that Samuel was a little boy and when Samuel was a little boy They had the ark But they had no tabernacle Remember the ark gets carried off by the Philistines and brought back and it sits in a guy's yard for a long time until David Brought it.

Why didn't David put it back in the tabernacle? There was no tabernacle tabernacle had fallen apart by then they didn't have any place to put the ark That's why they put it in the guy's yard No other place the ark of the Covenant survived But all the rest of the accoutrements of the temple appear to have been gone. No mention of the candlestick no mention of the plates and the Shovels and remember a lot of that stuff got carried off Later on after it was remade for the second temple But it sort of disappeared in the time between Joshua and Samuel So by the days of Eli and little Samuel Here am I Lord Uh, there's just a ghostly shadow Left they've got the ark and maybe a tent and that's about it, but not the tabernacle so I consider your heavens the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have ordained He's not thinking about the brilliance of the noonday sun. He's thinking about the nighttime sky Where you see? the stars Now this is interesting to me because the stars are used several times in scripture to represent The angelic hosts right if you want to talk about the angelic hosts Are you going to talk about the sun if you're going to talk about daytime with the sun in the sky? Can you see the stars? So barring cloudy weather We can only see the stars at best half the time And that's if we happen to be awake.

We sleep for most of that. So the stars are an apt Reminder of the angels because We typically don't see them very much. You may look at them at night.

You may navigate by them at night If you've got the night watch you may be looking at them for four hours or more But typically it's limited observation and in the normal course of business. We don't see them at all now saburo sakai who was japan's greatest ace in world war ii he claimed That the zero pilots were so Well trained. I mean they were snatching flies out of the air with their reflexes And he said that they could see the brighter navigation stars in the sky They were trained to know where they ought to be and that by concentrating And also by being up Just even a few hundred feet But saburo sakai maintained to the day of his death that zero pilots could see the the brightest of the navigational stars I who might argue with him.

He was an ace and i'm not so if he says he could see him Maybe he could But typically you can't see them in the day, right? so the moon and the stars Now the moon we can see in the day Saw it yesterday and today. We had a near full moon if not full yesterday And you can see that in the day, but not the stars the moon and the stars. So by using the moon and the stars David comprehends the full 24 hours He could have said sun moon and stars but the moon and the stars are less obvious David is not Just looking at the most obvious symbol of glory in the sky he's waiting for the lesser lights Those that come at night Jesus did some of his best praying at night Often he would go off by himself at night His most memorable prayers before his arrest trial and crucifixion was not the day preceding but the night in the garden with Peter james and john, right? So all of this conspires together to say what it's the work of god's fingers Which means that from our perspective it is fine and delicate and it is Something you have to look for

Not at the usual times You look at the heavens at night and david being a shepherd would have spent a lot of nights on watch Most people went to bed at night they typically even in america in the agricultural Period people Rose with the sun and went to bed with the sun you how many how many candles do you want to burn how much? Whale oil or kerosene do you want to burn people without light people just went to sleep when light came up.

So did they? so When I consider your heavens The work of your fingers the moon and the stars Maybe the sun is more than finger work because it's so brilliant and so necessary. But this this finer work Then he asks The question that is so familiar to us What is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you visit him? Now I was uh reading a commentary by a man named leopard, I think i've quoted him before and he opines that The Being mindful and visiting ought to be put in the past tense because david is alluding to the week of creation And he says when I see the big things that you did in the week of creation What is man that you were mindful of him or the son of man that you Visited him and this would be adam. This would be adam and eve Yeah for me, that's Maybe a little bit of a stretch um I tend to think that there is Uh with all recognition of the fact that he is alluding back to genesis What is man? uh that you are Mindful of him and the son of man that you visit him for you have made him a little lower than the angels You have crowned him with glory and honor you have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands and this again goes back to genesis where God says he made the man and says You know you are to have dominance you are to Rule over these things if you go back to genesis chapter one.

We'll give leopard his full due here I mean he has a point but uh, if you get down to the uh 26th verse of chapter one of genesis Let us make man in our image according to our likeness let them have dominion over what? The fish of the sea the birds of the air cattle Over all the earth every creeping thing that creeps on the earth So god created man in his image Bless them be fruitful multiply verse 28 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 and you recognize Echoes of that language in psalm 8, don't you? so If you take it as leopard suggests David is celebrating the fact that after all of the magnificence Of the heavens and of course, there's a greater light and a lesser light uh mentioned in day four And it says he also made the stars doesn't say they were visible at that time, but it says he made them and so all of those things are sort of recast and repackaged here and you have I can't believe the The glory and the dominion that you have assigned to man in giving him suzerainty over all of these things and I think all of that is true I'm, not sure that that is really david's point here. I think I think that's the beginning of his point I think that is the foundation for his point but when he says You have given man dominion this takes us back to one of the points we made when we studied genesis one in detail, which is And here's the forty dollar question Actually, I don't have forty dollars. Here's the five dollar question In case you answer it and I have to pay up In what sense does man have dominion over the birds of the air? God says all those birds in the air you're responsible for them I'm giving you authority over them.

You make sure they fly, right? You make sure they nest where they're supposed to you make

sure these Only eat those and and these are only eaten by them you Have dominion over the birds I have trouble maintaining control of a couple of chickens much less the birds of the air chickens. You can track down and grab right? All right. How about fish of the sea? Unless you maintain an aquarium you have no control over the fish in the sea Right when has mankind ever had dominion over the fish of the sea? If we had dominion all of those salmon fishermen and all of those Guys that Were trying to subsist off of the sea of galilee could just stand on the shore and say fish left face forward swim And out they would come and there would be a bounty Now oxen and sheep How much dominion do we have over them Quite a bit they are what we call domesticated right domesticated animals we pin them we fence them we herd them we Tell them where to go and how to get there fairly easily, right You ride a horse you break the horse you saddle the horse you put reins Bridal bit the whole bit the whole bit On the horse and you control him, right? But what god says largely when he talks about man having dominion you say well, this must be some sort of a symbolic thing because he says Dominion over the fish of the sea Dominion over the birds of the air over the cattle over all the earth and over every creeping thing now creeping thing actually means Small animals people like to think it's insects If we had control of the insects the pesticide guys would be out of a job, right? So the point is What is god saying here to have dominion over means what? Well oddly enough This impinges on your calvinism Uh point of view Because calvinism says if god is sovereign Then god absolutely controls everything that he is sovereign over Guess what? You are sovereign over the fish of the sea But how much control do you have you are sovereign over the birds of the air but those geese that you watch flying over unless you've got a shotgun How much dominion do you actually exercise? Now can we catch fish out of the sea? Can we shoot birds out of the air? can we trap them when they come down to rest for the night, you know if the If the swallows return to capistrano, is it swallows that go to capistrano something goes there You know, you could probably grab some pigeons New york city or something When we choose to we can have direct dominion over small portions of that population Yet god says mankind has been assigned dominion over them all God has dominion over all of creation.

But does that mean that he must dictate every decision every action every thought not at all Look at the parallel Can god if he chooses to of course Does he choose to? Rarely He says to pharaoh. I raised you up so that I could Bounce my glory off of you as I free my people But most unbelievers god just lets them do what they want most believers. In fact most everybody god lets them do what they want Well back to psalm 8 The upshot of all of this is David says when I consider your heavens the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have ordained now how much freedom of Action do the moon and the stars have the literal moon and stars? How free are they to move around? we make Very accurate predictions of where the moon is going to be in what phase it's going to be in We can navigate by the stars because they are fixed and immovable The stars represent the unfallen angels who are absolutely and utterly obedient to god's will I would suggest that when you have the sun and the moon and the stars I would suggest that the moon And i'm not I wouldn't die for this I when I say suggest I mean suggest I would suggest to you that the moon is the lord jesus in his first advent The moon is visible because it gives off the reflected glory of the sun which is the full-orbed Glorious son of

god lord jesus in his revealed glory with his face Burning and his feet burnished and the vision that john sees in the revelation that's that's the sun And not not always i'm just saying that I think you've got the the reason That david is talking about the moon and the stars here is they are predictable and fixed Even the sun varies by season And you know the mayans and a lot of other people would draw I've tracked the progress of the sun rising and and setting on the horizon, especially if you're up in a tall building But the moon Because it's orbiting the earth is very predictable where it's going to be and what phase it's going to be in And so david is talking about predictability here that which You have ordained When god ordains a thing It absolutely happens.

What are the two things god has ordained in this? psalm He ordained these objects in the heavens. And what else did he ordain? Strength where Babes and sucklings who are the babes and sucklings Look around look in the mirror so How certain is it? That god is going to glorify his name above the heavens and produce Strength like a stronghold. How certain is it? in your life How certain is the availability and the effectiveness of that strength as effective As god's ordaining the moon to be where the moon is supposed to be to stir the tides To you know without the tides there would probably be no life on this planet It it's amazing what what the moon does to sustain life here and the stars They are fixed they are immovable except on rare occasions where god sends a comet through Which isn't actually a star, but you get the idea so What is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you visit him? God Looks at us and doesn't just incorporate us into the fabric Doesn't just make us part of what he has ordained to move in a preset path As calvinism would have it Man is a babe and a suckling How controllable is a babe and a suckling? About as controllable as a fish or a bird You want to try to get babies to go to sleep when you're trying to sleep you want to get them to burp when they need to burp or You know go when they need to go, you know, they're Because of their very nature.

They are somewhat uncontrollable. You can Provide for them you can create an environment in which they are safe And limits for their freedom to crawl and gurgle and giggle and cry and do all of their functions right But we are the babes and sucklings and so what is man? What's the answer to the question? What is man? It's in the psalm What is man that you're mindful of him? He's a babe and a suckling right It's not it's not an abstraction. What is man that you are mindful of him? Well, what is a baby that you're mindful of it? your Your hopes and your expectations for the future are in that child.

You've gone to a lot of trouble to have this child and and you want it to Grow and mature and and Accomplish its purpose. So what is man that god is mindful? Or the son of man son of man what what process has to go on so that there is a son for a man How does a man get a son his wife Has a baby as a suckling infant Why is it son of man? We think oh son of man. Well, that's that's jesus.

That's ezekiel Those are the two guys that are two guys. Those are the two individuals who are explicitly referred to as son of man in scripture, right Ezekiel is addressed by god son of man

prophesied of these bones Jesus calls himself the son of man. So when we we tend to Have a magnet in our brain that that pegs that needle when we see son of man, but in david's mind Ezekiel had wouldn't be around for hundreds of years.

The lord. Jesus wouldn't be around for a thousand years So when he says son of man, what's he referring to? What is man that you're mindful of him or? The son of man it came about by being a child that you visit him that you ordain strength in his mouth Yet you have made him to have dominion You have crowned him with glory and honor But the pregnant phrase here is in verse five, isn't it? You have made him a little lower than the angels The word there and you can write it in your bible is elohim You have made him I would translate this straight out of hebrew You have made him little less than god You have made him a little less than god elohim is translated god in the hebrew old testament 99.98 of the time a couple of times you can translate it judge Judge Once or twice you can translate it angels But there's no there are no angels in the immediate context here Are there? Unless you double hop from stars to angels You have made him a little lower than elohim the is not in there You have made him little lower than god Elohim And you have crowned him not an accidental choice of verb Could this and does this anticipate the lord jesus Who as the last adam and look at the first adam adam before he fell adam and eve before they fell Were the pinnacle of creation Out of genesis one and two, right? What's the highest thing? That comes what's the one thing that god himself forms? With his hands and then breathes Into he doesn't do that for any of the other forms of life only for man if God breathes his own breath Into man that man is Is Little less than god himself The son of god is also called the last adam by paul, right so What's the upshot of all of this? by the way When this verse is quoted in the new testament, it is quoted from the septuagint And it is quoted A couple of times um hebrews Two Nine, I believe It's one of those And the septuagint the greek translation of the hebrew scripture is done about 200 years before christ Uses angelas to translate elohim It's an interpretive translation Most of the time when the old testament is quoted in the new it is from the septuagint the common copy of the scriptures And you say well doesn't that nail down the meaning here well not necessarily In hebrew elohim means elohim and you have to have a good reason in context For taking it differently and just because the greeks In the same way that the king james translators weren't necessarily inspired neither were the septuagint translators and you can Use a misquote. We quote king james all the time knowing that Not everything in it is exactly right Because we only correct the translation where it makes a difference to the meaning of the quote and when you're in hebrews chapter 2 Being a little lower than isn't really the Whether it's angels or god isn't really the point And so he doesn't bother to correct it.

He doesn't get off on a rabbit trail is my view But you made him a little lower than god. You have crowned him with glory and honor god has dominion over things even larger than this world He's got dominion over the moon and the stars and in his dominion. Everything is perfect man is a little lower than god He's got dominion over what's on the earth You see the parallel and why it is probably not angels because david is setting up the comparison When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers the moon and the stars which you have ordained They

are fully obedient what is the lord jesus prayer when the disciples say teach us to pray and he says we'll pray this way Our father who art in heaven hallowed be your name.

What's the very first thing he says? Hallowed be your name by the way Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is where In heaven would that everything on earth Had the regularity and the consistency and the faithfulness and the full orb'd obedience that you have in heaven in the heavens David says I look at the moon and the stars god ordained them and they never deviate Man has dominion over the earth And he can't control himself his fellow men Much less the birds of the air and the fish of the sea we we can manage a few herds and that's about it You have made him have dominion over the works of your hands God made them he said be fruitful and multiply reproduce after your kind and they do that everything that god told them to do they do You notice god did not say and be subject to the man i'm about to make Because if he had You could tell a bird to land out of the sky and he would you could tell a fish to jump out of the pond and he would God did if god had ordained their obedience God ordained our authority in our dominion, but he didn't ordain their obedience God has authority over the human race But he has not ordained obedience if he had everybody would obey So there is a deeper level of thought I would suggest in this psalm than what meets the eye david is thinking about god's authority not only to ordain things that are fixed but also to allow for the Unexpected the spanish inquisition the Freedom of movement and freedom of choice under dominion And david is marveling that god takes Babes no no Company of soldiers was commanded by a suckling infant No government was run. I mean chinese tried it with little seven eight year old kids, but didn't work out too Well, they usually just got killed or managed by you know the little Single digit year old regents that have been in these different countries and monarchies. That's always a recipe for trouble You don't put suckling infants in charge of something and yet david says God has ordained strength in the babes and sucklings and has given him dominion over the works of his hands God made it and then he said take it Run it See how you do All sheep and oxen even the beasts of the field the birds of the air and the fish of the sea And then it says that pass but the things that pass You need to add the word things in front of the last half of verse eight it's not the fish of the sea that pass it's Everything that passes those things.

It is the passers. It's kind of like a Participle the passers through the sea and this is this is everything even things that aren't fish like seals and and whales and and You know creatures of the deep whatever they may be otters or You know beavers or they're not all of them are salt water, but you get the idea Everything that passes through the sea This would be leviathan He's in the sea You have put all things not just in his dominion but under his feet Remember how paul is talking about the lord. Jesus and he says God has put all things under the lord.

Jesus feet, but we do not yet see all things under his feet like we're going to in the millennial kingdom and beyond where he's ruling with a rod of iron and what he says goes and there is no disobedience and There is no straying and and it is however, chafing and and Unwilling it may be there will be obedience in christ's kingdom He will weed out of it all things that offend right but Paul says we do not yet see all things put under his feet Even though god has said they're

under his feet. Well god has put all things under our feet, but we don't yet see them completely submissive There is that freedom So What is the upshot what is the point why does david take the winepress song And set these words to that tune Cast them in the light of this idea of god's judgment grapes of wrath this time of non-compliance This time of freedom of action and freedom of choice Is going to be the basis for judgment When I consider those things that are fixed and are obedient And then I look at man And I say why? Have you paid attention to him? Why have you given him dominion? To help us understand that Those things that are out of our control if I had control raccoons would not eat my chickens Owls would not swoop down and eat the chickens. We've lost two thirds of our miniature flock to Predators that i'm supposed to be dominant over and be able to control God has given me dominion And yet there they go doing things that don't please me Well, guess what? It doesn't mean I don't have dominion It means that there is a phase That's different than the peaceable kingdom.

Why is the kingdom going to be peaceable? Why will the lion lay down? with the lamb and why will the Bear eat straw like an ox and all those other things something eats straw like an ox Why why will carnivores be submissive? Full dominion My child can play with a snake near its den Why? I tell the state Don't bite my child dominion And it is a human dominion. It is the sons of david who rule on that throne But this is when right now we don't see all things put under our feet, even though god says they are under our feet So application time What does all of this mean? number one You may think you're a babe in a suckling, but you are important You're important in god's plan and out of your mouth god has ordained strength You can speak a stronghold into existence. You don't need to go trying to bind demons You don't need to speak into your prosperity.

You don't have to bind satan you don't have to think in terms of You know self-interest What kind of strength has been ordained in our mouth? It is the kind of strength that gives god's glory above the heavens It is strength that reflects and manifests and Gives the glory of god above the heavens It accomplishes god's plan and purpose. It is in line with it. It is in harmony with it.

It understands it and Implements it in the same way that a good Contractor or a good enlisted man will Do things even without being ordered or being asked that contribute to the overall goal and the overall mission because he understands it He gets it and Because of this even things that we don't understand if we are just obedient and if we are Mindful as david was of the assignment god has given us god can do amazing things It has to do with prayer if you pray daily as I think most of you do if not all of you That god will work his will in us and through us that he will accomplish his purpose that we can be useful implements in his hands you have no idea the things that he can do and there are times when your challenges and your frustrations Also serve a purpose I'll give you a quick illustration. I mentioned this to patty earlier. It's an illustration Hear me carefully.

I'm not saying this is an example I don't know that god necessarily busies himself working out the very small details of of my life to my Amusement and gratification. I I think often he does I

don't know that he always does but i'm using this as an illustration We have a house up on the hill Bought a stove wood burning stove want to have a little stove got a glass front put a little fire in there in the winter unlimited supply of firewood So Stick in the stove get ready to run the stove pipe up through the ceiling I crawl up there in this tiny space and I discover that Because there is a complex roof. There's a long roof that goes this way But then there's a 90 degree roof that goes out over the front door Well right where the stove pipe needs to go is a whole bunch of lumber Complicated with all of these two roofs.

It's not just a flat surface Poke a hole stick a pipe up and you're done a little bit of flashing very complex so I crawl back out and say well i've got to think about this and so I strategize and I analyze and Many weeks later I go back up there and I say I think There's got to be a way I can do this and I go back up and I try again And I fail there just seems to be no possible way. I can get this Desirable objective accomplished. I want to save money on my electric bill.

It would be a great thing. Please my wife make me happy It's just a wonderful feature you live in the country. I have a stove or a fireplace No can do two times.

I've been stymied. So I recruit My erstwhile roommate ken russell who is the master Potter of the universe also an incredibly good carpenter Has restored all of these historic homes. He has solved more problems than i've ever even read about in terms of construction So he comes up and we get up there and we start working and we think we've almost got it solved but then an impenetrable obstacle Arises and we can't get it done.

So we did something else But not the stovepipe. Well today the stovepipe Is a done deal why? Because the contractors who are putting on our front porch and are going to roof over it had to move the peak of the roof East Several feet to Ray to extend the pitch on the back side of the house So that the pitch is good on the front side of the house where the porch is So it's just going to be a simple roof that will extend over the porch You can just imagine this you would just have to raise the peak Move it toward the porch and then bring a nice slant down Well when they did that They deconstructed the complex roof that went over the door. And now the peak is past the point where the stovepipe Was trying to come up and now it just simply comes through the ceiling through what is now the back side of the roof and out If I had had my way the plan of sam I would have somehow finigled and gone through all kinds of histrionics and gyrations and permutations and finally gotten this thing done Only to have to deconstruct it all and take it apart because unbeknownst to me my roof was going to change You could argue you could say by way of illustration god who knows the end from the beginning may frustrate Plans that we think are perfectly valid perfectly logical perfectly Justifiable and reasonable.

Oh lord. Why can I not? Finish this why can I not accomplish this? Why cannot I not overcome this? Why can I not get past this thing? I just give you that as a personal illustration Of things that god can know that we don't know we look at a star and it's just a pinpoint God knows that there is an incredible sized theory going on there that's generating this little bit of light He knows that this is the furnace in which he forges the elements that make up this world And he

needed as many as he's got out there to bring about A universe that could sustain our planet In this particular part of our galaxy and people that say well That just makes no sense if there's a god he would never waste so much space on the universe just for one little planet A I don't know that it's just one little planet and b How big is the hard drive in your computer Let's say it's two terabytes like one of mine. How much space am I using on my two terabyte drive? Several hundred megabytes a few gigabytes I'm using nowhere near the two terabytes but it's there In case I need it.

I may have some future purpose for it or I may Use it in a way the machine may use it in a way that I don't even know about But just because i've got a lot of extra space on my hard drive doesn't mean that I don't exist Because look at the purposeness of this empty space on the hard drive This is the this is the equivalent of that argument for an atheist to say There can't be a god because look at all the wasted space in the universe It's like saying there can't be an owner of this pc because look at all the wasted space on the hard drive It's nonsense I've got a plan for that hard drive I've got uses for it that you may not know about just because it doesn't have Full space yet doesn't mean that i'm not going to record a bunch of videos on there They're going to take up the whole thing make me have to buy another one. You don't know my plans You don't know why i've got all of that space But to say that I don't exist because it's senseless for anybody to have an empty hard drive Is just as dumb as saying look at the vastness of the universe. Well, there can't be a god He wouldn't do all of this just for little babes and suckling infants God's glory is above the heavens and his ways are higher than our ways So if we are patient if we are trusting and if we avail ourselves of the ordained strength We may think we're insignificant god Manifests his strength in weakness.

That's us. That's this psalm david Looking at the expanse of the heavens Understands there are things that are ordained and are not going to change like the sun and the moon and the stars There are things that are out of control like the fish and the birds but When you need it when you are in harmony with the will of god There is strength that can issue forth from your mouth ask and it shall be given seek and you will find knock and it will be opened Asking is verbal, right? That's how powerful prayer can be and if god delays to answer or seems to answer in the negative Trust him. Maybe the peak of your roof is going to move and you'll be glad later That you didn't push on through Thinking you had a good answer when god had an infinitely better answer So psalmy, let's close in a word of prayer Father thank you for your grace toward us we are so small in the scope and the sweep of your plan the the wideness and the majesty and the vista of Your name and your glory Dwarf us seemingly to insignificance, but we know that we have been purchased With an inestimably great price the blood of the lord jesus christ and we are valuable in your sight Though we are babes and suckling infants We know how valuable those are in our sight and we know that we are Precious in your sight and that you have woven us into the fabric of your perfect plan we pray that god the holy spirit will keep us mindful of that and help us to avail ourselves of the opportunity to Implement your strength In our circumstances in ways that will reflect your glory above the heavens.

We pray these things in jesus name. Amen You

