

Liam is a tower of a man. Over 6 foot tall. Strong, physical and imposing. It's a good thing Liam is a police officer and not a criminal. He once chased 2 youths who stole from a cafe! Chased both and after calling for back up, together grappled one to the ground. And this on his day off. He is also a sharp shooter. If you met on him on the road, you might feel intimidated!

Liam is also my brother in law and to those who know him, he is a bit of a softie. He is a tender softie toward his wife and a gentle giant. He always seems to have a smile on his face. It's like it's permanently etched on. I mean I can't smile that much. My face can't take it! I know he has a generous disposition. How do I know? Because he helped me move furniture on his trailer and he didn't have one mean look on his face when he did it. You know how some people are when they got to help you. It's like dragging a carcass! I know him because I have a personal relationship with him.

To get to know someone, they have to reveal themselves to you. Their name, their thoughts, their actions.

My first point then is that

A) God has revealed his name to us. We have a personal relationship with him because he revealed himself to us!

Psalm 8:1 NIV

V1 Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Look at the first word of verse 1. It's God's special name Yahweh.

This is the special name of the Lord that God first revealed to the Israelite people in Exodus 3:14. Remember Moses had a personal encounter with God at the burning bush. God revealed his name to Moses which was "I AM WHO I AM."

EXodus 3:14 This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

"I AM" in capitals is God's name. Yahweh is a play on the Hebrew word "I AM." Yahweh therefore is the name of the our God. In plain English, it's just translated LORD.

Perhaps best to read v1 as Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic your name in all the earth!

Did you also notice that the start and end of this psalm verse 1 and 9 ends with the exact same verse. Understanding the importance of our God's name is key to understanding this psalm.

Yahweh is God's covenant name to his people. Covenant name is special because that's God's wonderful revealed name to us as a people. He's cut this amazing deal for the Israelite people thousands of years ago which now extends to us in modern times, even today. And part of cutting this super deal is he has

revealed his name to us. It's something personal, something wonderful, something sacred. His name tells us about himself.

Yahweh is derived from word the "I AM." What goes through your head when someone's name is "I AM" ?

It tells us a lot. One, he is the Absolute Reality. There is nothing more real than our God. Whatever you see, touch, smell, hear, ever scientific discovery, our very universe has come from the great 'I AM.'

Two, He is eternal. He has always has been and always will be. He exist outside of creation and time.

Three. He is self-sufficient. He is utterly complete. Inside the Godhead is the perfect harmony of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are in perfect harmony. God is not lonely and he doesn't need us humans for company.

What does this mean to me? It tells me that this self-sufficient, Absolute Reality , eternal God of the universe who doesn't need us has stooped down and for utterly incomprehensible reason has chosen to reveal his name to us. 'I AM' OR YHWH OR LORD in simple English.

When someone tell you their name, they are inviting you into a personal relationship with him.

Now, to my second point. Those whom God touches personally experience his strength, his power, his healing.

B/ Those who have faith in God are strong even though they are weak

8:2 "Through the praise of children and infants
you have established strength on account of your enemies,
to put at rest both foe and avenger."

To help us understand psalms 8:2, let's look at how Jesus used this verse in Matthew 21:12-16

So Jesus was in God's temple in Jerusalem. The blind people and lame people, people who can't really walk, they came up to him. They came in simple faith. They got nothing to offer. They are weak, they are blind, they are lame. And what does Jesus do? He healed them. He made well again. The blind can see. The lame can walk.

The children must have seen these miracles and were shouting in the temple courts. "Hosanna to the Son of David." Its like screaming out.... "Hooray! Hooray! The Son of David is saving us!!!"

But what did the priests and the bosses at the temple say? They were angry, indignant!

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" They asked Jesus.

Jesus replied from this very verse in psalms 8:2 NIV

““From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise^[9]?”

God uses the children to sing out God’s praise, uses the words of children to establish his strength, his power over his enemies. But how can children have power over the strong?

Yet psalm 8:2 says that he silences the enemies with words of children. Its just like our God. He uses the weak to silence the proud and strong.

What’s so special about these children? They are like the lame and the blind, have a simple faith in Jesus. Those whom he has revealed his divine name comes into a position of power and strength. They have faith. Their power and significance comes from God. Praise even from mouth of children establishes God’s strength, God’s power over his enemies. No matter how rich or famous, their lives are empty. Only those who have faith in God have meaning in their lives. Those who have no faith in God are his enemies.

Now, we turn to my third point.

C/ God reveals himself to us because of his wonderful grace. We can have a personal relationship with him only because he has stooped down to show himself to us.

Children and kids light the way for us. They are so naïve and have little knowledge of the world, but yet through simple faith, given by God, children know him and can praise him.

It is only by the special revelation that God gives that we can know him. That we can enjoy fellowship with him.

Just look at verse 3.

“When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?^[9]”

Have you considered the universe, the work of God’s hands, the moon and the stars?

Let me ask you.

Do you think there are more stars in the universe or more grains of sand in the whole world. Let's take a poll.

More stars in the universe or more grains of sand?

Who thinks more stars?

Who thinks more grains of sand?

So there are 70 thousand million, million, million stars in the seen universe.

As for sand, there are 7 thousand, million, million, million grain of sand in the world. So stars are more by a factor of 10.

Look at the sky at night. Look at its great expanse. Look at some of the pictures from Hubble telescope. Do you feel dwarfed when you see the sheer immensity of what God has made? There so many million stars. And our sun is just one star among the millions and millions. Think of that. Yet mankind is on one planet within the immensity of God's creation. Why does he even bother with us? We are so small so miniscule.

Yet God is mindful of us. He thinks about us. He cares for us. He loves us. He revealed his name to us. He shows himself to us. Where does God put us in the grand scheme of things?

It says in v5 NIV "You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e] and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor."

I think it's better to translate angels here as God. The Hebrew word Elohim normally refers to God and not angels.

Whether u take it as angels or God, you get the sense of the wonderful grace of God. God made man just a little lower than God himself or the angels.

Isn't it wonderful that a being as great and self-sufficient as the great "I AM" would care about poor lowly me? Why does he even care? What did I ever do to deserve it? I am nothing. He is everything. God in his infinite wisdom, grace and love, reached out to count us worthy of his care and consideration. He gives use meaning and significance.

Let me tell you a real life story.

Jackson had a rough life. He was born a Massai. They were a group of nomadic people who move cattle around. Polygamy was the norm back then. He had one father and his father had 11 wives. His mom was number seven. His father was dead when he was 4 years old. He reckons he had more than 50 siblings.

His stepbrothers kicked his mom, him and his other 2 full siblings out of the family home. They took his land and his cattle. They became destitute and lived with their uncle. Everyday his poor mother had to walk from house to house, asking for extra bowl of porridge to feed her kids.

In 1974, Jackson got sponsored by WorldVision. 2 years later, there was a severe drought, and they saved their lives, giving them maize, beans and oil.

One day when Jackson was in the forest, he had an epiphany when he watched a spider rebuilding its web. He realized how blessed he was, how much he had been given and just knew he needed to rebuild. Jackson went home singing and told his mom "I have seen God in an amazing way. He's going to change my life." God indeed had designs on his life. For today, Jackson Ole Sapit is the Archbishop of the Anglicans in Kenya.

Jackson's story kinda mirrors psalm 8. Consider the utter glory and immensity of the heavens and the beauty of all creation. Yet God stooped down, bend down to notice us, little you and me. He considers us, cares for us and loves us. Whoever he reveals himself to, they have life, they have meaning. Just like Jackson's sponsors came and pulled him out of poverty and gave him and a hope and a future, God too come down in Jesus, died for us and pulled us out of obscurity and into his bosom.

D/ This then leads me to my fourth and final point. God has chosen us. He has revealed himself to us as the great "I AM." He has put us on a pedestal even though we didn't earn it. But that's not all, he has given us a grand purpose.

Verse 6-8 sums it up

"You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[a] feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas."

When you read these verses, you get the sense that they sit nicely with the creation account in genesis. In the past this was how wonderful it was meant to be. I think it laid the foundation for what we are to be now.

I drew 3 Rs from this set of verses that has meaning for our lives now. God has revealed himself to us and has given us a hope and future.

I think God has given us a Role, a Responsibility and a Reason for our liv es.

Firstly,

In the past God gave humans Role as rulers over his works, taking care of all animals and creation. Today our role today is to do God's work which he had prepared in advance for us to do.

EPH 2:10 NIV SAYS For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Whether it is serving morning tea, teaching ESL, praying for others, visiting the sick and lonely, to sharing the gospel. God has appointed work for each and everyone of us. NO matter how feeble you feel you today. God has work for you to do. Remember out of mouth little children, they did God's work. They praised and glorified him.

Secondly, In the past God has given us responsibility. We were in charge of the earth, in charge of the fish, the herds, the flocks, the birds. Today, we have a great responsibility as those who have the gospel. We are fortunate ones whom God has given us faith, whom God has enlightened, whom God has restored to right personal relationship with God. Out of the overflow of our hearts, out of thankfulness, we also have a responsibility to reach others for Christ.

Thirdly,

In the past we have reason to be. Genesis 1:28 tell us to be fruitful and increase in number. Today, we are bought with the blood of Jesus, redeemed and put into a personal relationship with God. Given us meaning for our lives. We are not a meaningless random bunch of molecules that randomly evolved into a higher being with no meaning and no purpose. Col 3:23 NIV

23Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,
24since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving

God has transformed our work and our lives. Everything we do has meaning. From washing the dishes to changing a nappy, to taking your children to school. Because of the Lord Jesus, as long as we do it unto the Lord, we will receive our reward. Our lives has absolute meaning through Jesus.

In closing , can I just share a little personal account. Many years ago, I was in a very dark place. Depressed, desperately lonely and no one really understood what I was going through. The chips were down. I was emotionally drowning with no way of come up to the surface. So low, like I was staring into darkness. Low as low can be. you know when you're down, you don't want some empty platitude, some glib sayings. I want the real deal. I want help that is sure, unshakeable and true. In my dark hour, God spoke to me prophetically through a Godly older man. What he said came true. I know and continue to know God to be true.

You see God is the great "I AM" who has revealed himself to me. I know him personally. He cared for me, lifted me out of obscurity and planted me a safe wonderful place. He has given me a role, a responsibility and reason to be. Yahweh, my God. Our God. Psalm 8 reminds us that God in his absolute mercy revealed himself to us, stooped down to give us meaning, give us a hope and a future. Indeed as psalm 8 closes, Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name is all the earth!