

**Title: “Our Father”****[Slide 1]****Text: Psalm 8****Selfie?****Psalm 8:**

The Psalm that we are going to look at this morning is Psalm 8. Let’s stand and read it together:

**[Slide 2]**

*LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.*

*<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

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*<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?*

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*<sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

*<sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:*

<sup>7</sup> *all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,*  
<sup>8</sup> *the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

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

### **The Rise of the Selfie...**

By now, we're all way too familiar with the ever-present selfie. The term first appeared around 2002 in Australia, but the idea of taking a picture of yourself has been around since the invention of the camera.

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The oldest selfie goes all the way back to 1839.

### **[Slide 7]**

Before long, people figured out how to take their picture in a mirror, like this woman did around 1900.

### **[Slide 8]**

But you can credit the rise of the digital camera and the smart phone with the rise of the selfie. Selfies have been taken just about everywhere: even outer space. President Obama made headlines with this selfie, taken during Nelson Mandela's funeral.

Early digital selfies all suffered from the fact that the camera was too close to the person taking the picture. Thus the advent of the selfie stick. The "selfie stick" makes it possible to better see where the picture was taken.

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It seems like we never get tired of taking pictures of ourselves.

### **The Ultimate Selfie:**

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Perhaps the most unusual selfie was taken by the ultimate selfie stick: a space probe hundreds of millions of miles from earth. Here are all 7 billion of us in the same picture, with the moon thrown in as well.

Cassini reminds us that for all of our fascination with posting pictures of ourselves we're just tiny creatures living on a tiny planet in God's vast universe.

Which brings us to the psalm that we are looking at today. In this song, the David takes his – and our – picture. But he does so in such a way that we see ourselves the way our Creator sees us. Think of it as the ultimate selfie.

## **God's Selfie**

### **The Glory of God:**

The song begins with the matchless glory and splendor of the One God Who made all things:

#### **[Slide 11]**

*Psalm 8:1 NIV*

*LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.*

It calls God by His personal name: Yahweh, the LORD. The fact that David praises God's *Name* may seem strange to us. For the Hebrew people, however, a person's *name* stood for that person's essential nature. It was directly connected to a person's power or importance – so much so that the *name* came to be a way of talking about the person him or herself.

David reminds us that God's fame and power are uncontested in the heavens. He is likewise King of the earth below. As Isaiah reminds us:

#### **[Slide 12]**

*Isaiah 61:1 NIV*

*This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"*

### **Where we fit in:**

What follows in the psalm lets us see how we fit into God's selfie:

### **[Slide 13]**

*Psalm 8:2 NIV*

*Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

God does the work of restoring His Creation *not through the high and mighty, but through the meek and lowly*. As commentator Allen Ross puts it:

### **[Slide 14]**

*In other words, some individuals may appear weak and vulnerable, but they have access to divine power – this is the way that God has ordered creation.*

*(Ross, Commentary on the Psalms, Vol. 1, p. 293)*

### **"What is mankind?"**

When David sees himself from God's perspective, he poses the central question of the song:

### **[Slide 15]**

*Psalm 8:3-4 NIV*

*When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?*

David would have loved the Cassini selfie of earth. There we are, tiny specks on a tiny grain of rock swirling around a modest star on the outskirts of one

out of some hundreds of billions of galaxies. What is mankind in the grand scheme of things? Why would God notice, much less care about us?

The answer picks up the thread that began with God establishing a stronghold or fortress through the praise of children and infants. It turns out that God has work for us to do:

**[Slide 16]**

*Psalm 8:5-8 NIV*

*You have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

*<sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:*

*<sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,*

*<sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

We were created *in God's image*, to serve as His reflection and as His agents in His world. He made us to be "a little less than God." And He placed us in charge of His world.

Of all the millions of living species on this planet, how many ever give any thought to why they are here? How many have the slightest notion of God or gods? How many could take a selfie, much more a selfie from 898 million miles away?

**"Our Father..."**

**A Special Relationship!**

The song ends as it began:

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*Psalm 8:9 NIV*

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

And so we have come full circle. The song is God's selfie, not ours! But more than that, it calls us to a very wonderful relationship. The great Creator relates to us most powerfully when we see ourselves as children – His children. It is when we know ourselves as His children that we truly praise Him, and our praise becomes a stronghold against the dark and deadly forces that would ruin God's world.

Jesus began His great prayer with the words:

**[Slide 18]**

*Matthew 6:9 NIV*

*"Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name."*

The entire song challenges us to see ourselves the same way: as the sons and daughters of God. It challenges us to know Him as Father.

**God's Greatest Work:**

Is it too good to be true to think that God can do His greatest work through mere human beings? The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that God did not entrust the repair and rescue of His world to the powerful angels of heaven, but rather to a human being like us:

**[Slide 19]**

*Hebrews 2:5-9 NIV*

*It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified:*

*"What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
a son of man that you care for him?*

*⁷You made them a little lower than the angels;  
you crowned them with glory and honor*

*and put everything under their feet."*

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*In putting everything under them God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

It was through Jesus tasting death for us all on the cross that God established the stronghold of Eternal Life. Like us, He was made "a little less than God and angels." Like us, He lived on that tiny speck of rock we call home. His death and resurrection unleashed God's New Creation and restored to us all the "glory and honor" God had intended for us in the first place.

### **Our Father...**

God didn't put us here to be the main event. He put us here to be part of His rescue mission. And that means that each one of us has work to do. There may seem to be so many things that are out of our control. But if we look closely we will see that there is always *something* that God has, if you will, *put under our feet*. There is something that we *can* do.

We can first and foremost, *pray*. It doesn't have to be fancy. Remember, God uses the praise of children and infants to build fortresses! But when we see a need, our first response must be to pray.

Second, we can let God show us how we are uniquely equipped to serve in a specific situation. Remember, as Jesus said to Paul when Paul was at his lowest point:

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*2 Corinthians 12:9 The Message*

*My grace is enough; it's all you need.  
My strength comes into its own in your weakness.*

### **[Slide 22]**

Finally, we can dare to let God work through us. After all, we're in His selfie.