

Memory Verse

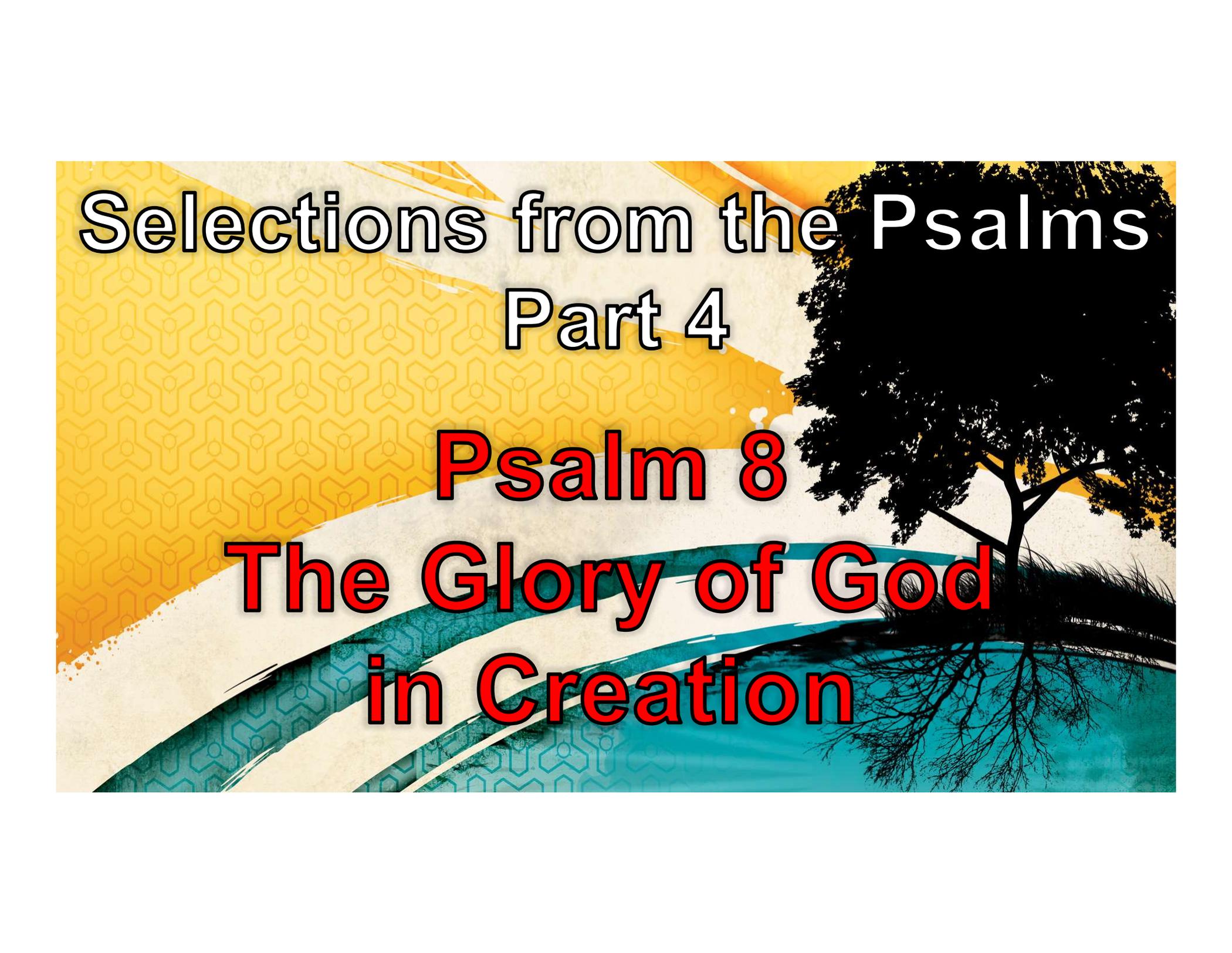
Psalm 8:3-4

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

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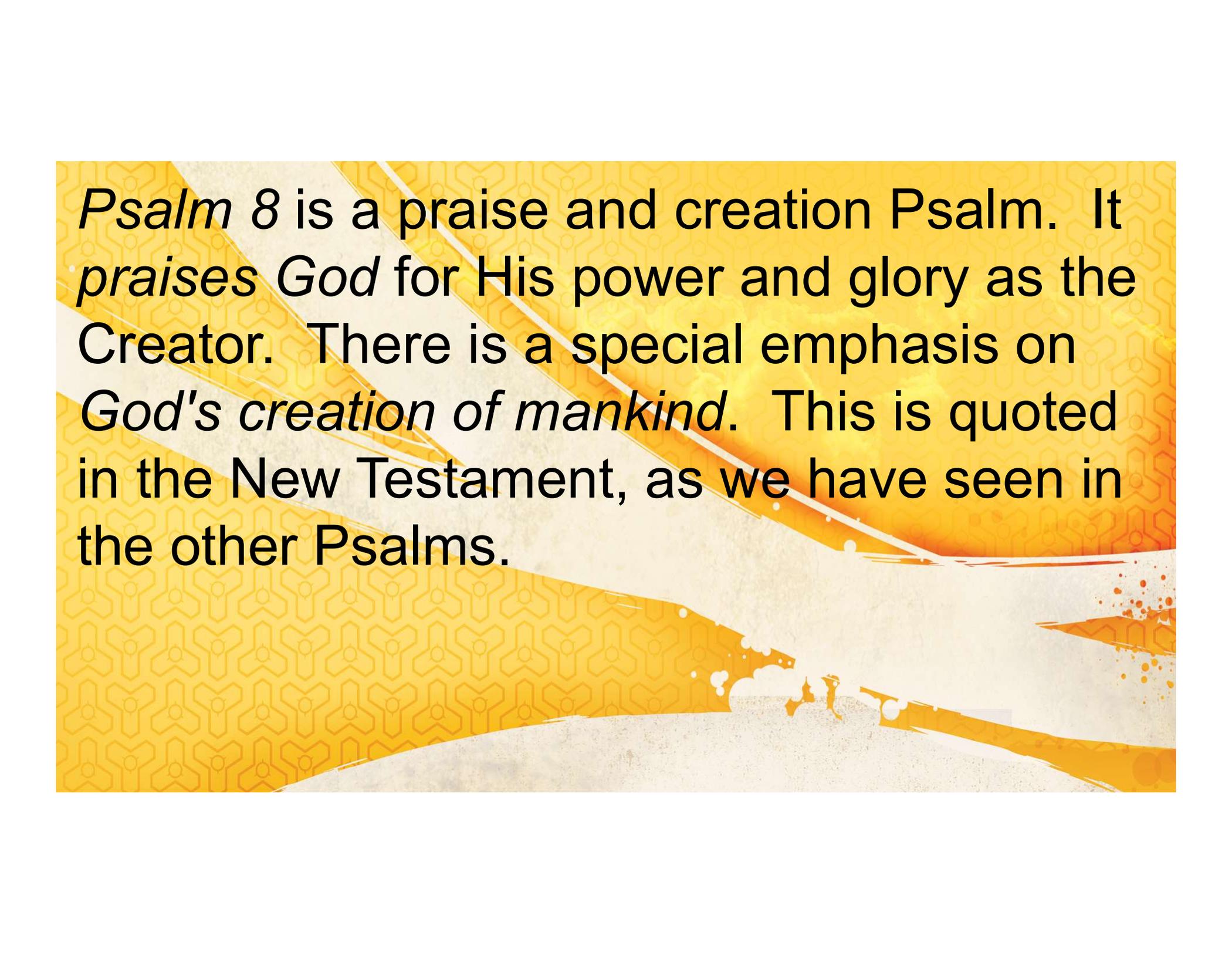


CHURCH



Selections from the Psalms
Part 4

Psalm 8
The Glory of God
in Creation



Psalm 8 is a praise and creation Psalm. It *praises God* for His power and glory as the Creator. There is a special emphasis on *God's creation of mankind*. This is quoted in the New Testament, as we have seen in the other Psalms.

Psalm 8:1-9

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith.
A Psalm of David.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at

Psalm 8:1-9

your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your

Psalm 8:1-9

hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

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

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

1. God's Glory Declared

This Psalm *begins and ends* with a praise to the Lord for His Name, or character, which is majestic throughout the earth. The repetition of *LORD*, YHWH, and *Lord*, Adonenu from Adonai, makes this more emphatic in Hebrew.

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

His glory and majesty are similar. These refer to the *sum of His attributes* in His character. *It's all about who He is!* Note again, the capitalization of the word LORD, in *verses 1 and 9*, referring the God's specific, personal covenant keeping Name.

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

Verse 2 seems to be a bit out of place. This poetic language refers to *babies and nursing infants* (NASB) as *weak*, in comparison to God's foes or enemies, but they possess the ability to proclaim God's majesty. It is through *these weak individuals*, that God will stop the enemy and avenger, or *those who seek*

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

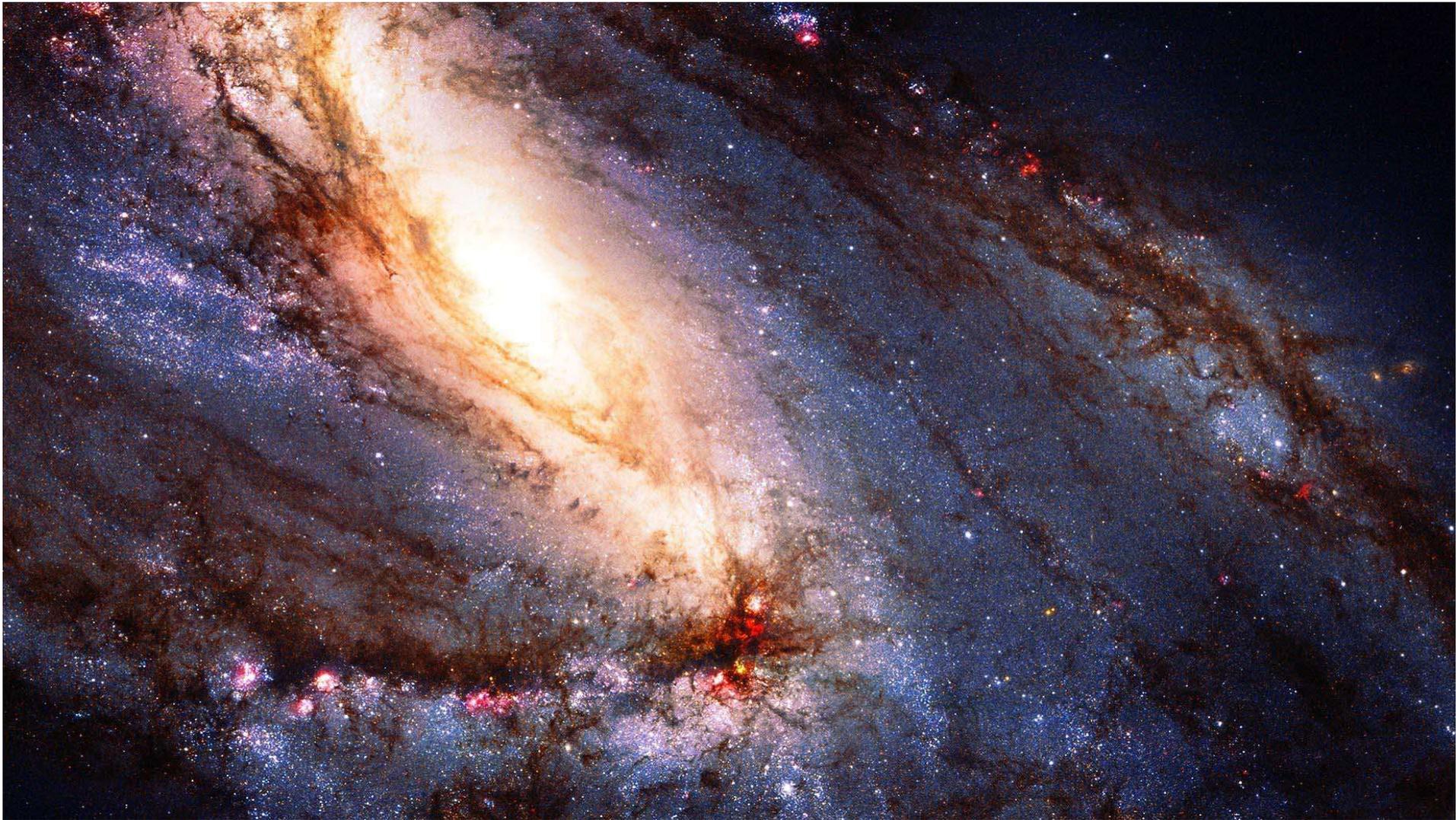
The Hebrew word means *strength or might*, but could be a reference to *praising God for His strength*. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, or Septuagint, uses "*strength*" and is probably what the New Testament writers were quoting from in the words of Jesus in *Matthew 21:16*.

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

2. God's Glory Displayed

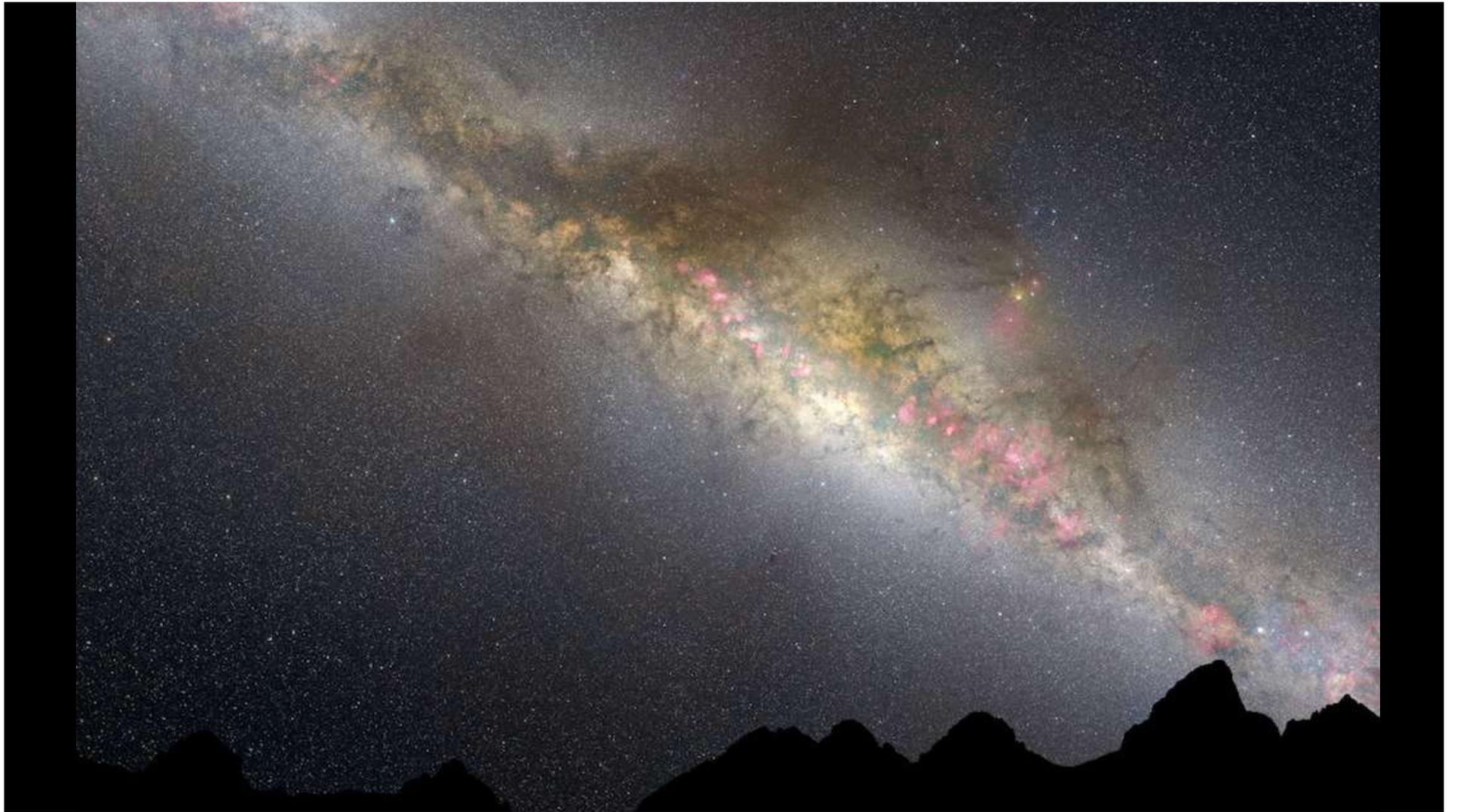
God's glory is **declared** and **displayed** in *creation*. In Scripture, the word "*heaven*" is used in different ways. **1.** The *atmosphere of earth*, or **heaven**. **2.** The **heavens**, or *space*. **3.** The **heaven of heavens**, which is where God and the angelic beings live





A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

Verse 3 talks about the *moon and the stars*. When this was written, you could not see the things of deep space. You could see the sun, moon, stars and the Milky Way Galaxy.



"The Hebrew text uses the word for making something firm or established, the point being that Yahweh's majestic power is displayed by fixing these marvels in the heavens..."

Walton, J. H. (2009). *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary (Old Testament): The Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Vol. 5, p. 327).

A. 8:1-3, 9 - God's Glory in Creation

The Psalms are **poetry**! This is a *figure of speech* known as an ***anthropomorphism***. The writer of Scripture uses a human example to tell us something about God's character and work. The **imagery** is that God specifically and personally formed and placed the stars where they are, *fixed in the heavens* from

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

1. Man's Dignity

God displays His glory through creation, and *verse 4* continues the thought of *God revealing His glory through the glory He has given to mankind*. David asks - What is man, that You are *mindful or think about* him?

"The dignity of human beings is stressed in this passage in a way unparalleled in the ancient Near East. According to Mesopotamian sources, men and women were created to relieve the workload on the lesser gods; they were forced to cultivate land in order to feed the gods... When the growing human population became too noisy, the gods thought to extinguish them

through the great flood. But as a result of the flood, food offerings to the gods were no longer forthcoming; only then did the gods find that humans were not so expendable after all.

“Although humanity survived the flood, the gods decreed certain afflictions to keep the population from ever getting out of control

again. But according to *Psalms* 8, far from being expendable slaves to the gods, human beings are the special objects of the Creator's care in the vast universe."

Walton, J. H. (2009). *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary (Old Testament): The Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Vol. 5, p. 327).

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

David marvels *God would care about us!* He uses *parallel phrases* to talk about humanity. The word for "care" means God pays attention to us.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

The ESV translates this as God *creating mankind a little lower than the "heavenly beings."* The Hebrew word is "*Elohim.*" This is a *plural word*, and most often, is one of the common titles or names for **God**. This also can refer to pagan gods, *depending on the context.* NASB: "...You have made him a little lower

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

That is a *legitimate translation*. This is a *poetic way* to refer to the dignity humanity has because God created us originally in His image! image! In the *second part of the verse*, David builds on this. God *crowned humanity with glory and honor!* God created humanity to represent Him on

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

Adam and Eve were to be *managers of creation*, where *God was the owner*. Yet God *crowned humans with glory and honor*, which are **terms for royalty**.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

2. Man's Dominion

Verses 6-8. This talks about the **dominion** or **rule** over God's creation. David mentions land animals, birds in the heavens, and fish in the sea. This goes back to *Genesis 1*.

Genesis 1:26-31

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

This is known as the *Dominion Mandate*. God gave Adam and Eve the *authority* and *ability* to fill the earth, subdue it, and rule the animals and take care of the land. As part of God's glory, and *man's glory given by God*, was to take care of the world in which God placed mankind.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

The **Dominion Mandate** is about the *physical realm* God gave to Adam and Eve to be stewards of. That is what *Genesis 1* says and what *Psalms 8* is referring to. It's **not** about the spiritual realm.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

There are *seasons*, in most of the world. In the 70's, people talked about a *new ice age*. That **changed** in the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century, with *global warming*. That phrase is no longer used, because scientists exposed the computer models *global warming was based on*, were **not true**.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

So the **elites** changed the phrase to *climate change*, with false computer models again to try and prove their point. It's about *globalism*, and not science, climate, and helping the poor. Some “*evangelical*” groups have joined them.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

Look up

- *The Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation*
- *Answers in Genesis*
- *Institute for Creation Research*

These are good ministries with Biblical scientists who talk about **science**...

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

Paul takes *Psalms 8* and applies it to Jesus in *1 Corinthians 15:27-28*.

The context is the *return* of Jesus and the giving of the Kingdom over to the Father, where *Christ will have all things under His feet*, and will **rule under the authority of the Father**.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

First, God gave Adam and Eve *dominion over earth*. Adam lost that, when he willingly sinned, and *brought death and God's curse* upon the world. He gave authority to satan. One reason Jesus came was to die for our sins, but **also** to regain the authority that Adam lost.

B. 8:4-8 - Man's Glory in Dominion

The **second part** is where *1 Corinthians* and *Hebrews* talk about the return of Jesus, when He will *ultimately regain that final authority*, bind satan for 1000 years, rule in the Millennium and into the New Heavens and New Earth. **Then** all things will be *subject to mankind*, though Christ.

Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

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