

1 <<To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.>> O LORD our Lord, how excellent  
is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.  
3 ¶ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast  
ordained;  
4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? (Psalm  
8)

The excellency of God's name, His fame, His renown, the glory of His Person, is mightily testified in all the earth. It must be universally acknowledged that the builder is greater than the building. And though the building may be more visible, larger, more impressive to the eye in many ways, all the properties and glories of the building are derived from the builder. Even so, the creature must ever be overshadowed by the Creator. The glory and wonders of the former serve only as a token testimony to the excellencies of the latter.

God's heavens (they are not just *the* heavens; they are *His* heavens) are best contemplated at night. This was likely a nighttime meditation of the psalmist. As moon and stars are obscured in the brilliant glory of the midday sun, so men and the works of men are unnoticed when God's glory is on the scene.

Let us consider for a moment these "works of God's fingers." The more we learn of them, the more incomprehensible they become. Their sheer numbers are uncountable. The distances they are removed from us and each other are immeasurable. Their age is incalculable. How can we number them, when we cannot find the end of them? How can we measure their distance, when as far as we can reach with electronic telescopes billions of light years away, we cannot find their borders? And how can we determine their age, when we cannot comprehend the nothingness from which they were created, or the Source of the matter of which they are composed? They testify of God unlimited, eternal and infinite. His glory is above them, for He is their Creator in a far more absolute sense than the carpenter is the builder of the house.

But let us now consider man in relation to all this. Do we not wonder that God, in view of the majesty of all His creation, gives such consideration to man? Man, who is the weakest and most dependent of all mammals, is given the honor and glory of bearing God's image, of being His vicar, His representative, the steward of God's creation. Is it any wonder, then, that man's sin and rebellion are so odious to God? Is it any wonder that God should be offended by the multitude of agnostics who say, God is unprovable and unknowable, or the foolish atheist, who with the breath of the Almighty Creator, denies His existence?

Let us repent of such madness. Let us acknowledge that God our Creator is excellent, mighty and glorious in all the earth; and that we are feeble worms, helpless wretches, insignificant shadows, who have been favored by God's goodness, redeemed by His Son, and destined for an eternal existence in God's presence, or the awful desolation of His absence.

-C.M.