

Series: Creation's Praise

May 18-19, 2019

## **Title: Created for Worship**

### **[Slide 1]**

**Text: Psalm 8:1-9**

### **"Wow Child"**

#### **Wow!**

Have you heard about the "Wow Child"?

A couple of weeks ago the Handel & Haydn Society played Mozart's "Masonic Funeral" at Symphony Hall in Boston. When the music came to an end – and before the audience even had a chance to applaud – a young boy shouted out "Wow!"

Thus started a search for the "Wow Child." He turned out to be a 9-year-old named Ronan Mattin, of New Hampshire. Ronan is a huge music fan and has a unique way of expressing his appreciation of great music. The president of the Handel & Haydn Society, David Snead, called Ronan's "Wow" one of the most wonderful moments he ever had in a concert hall! ([mprnews.org](http://mprnews.org))

9-year-old Ronan was doing what God made him to do. He was made to be a "Wow Child." And so were you.

#### **God's Symphony:**

You and I live our lives in the middle of God's symphony hall. Every day we experience His magnificence in a million ways. David wrote:

### **[Slide 2]**

*Psalm 8:1a NIV*

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

David's song *begins and ends* with the Name of His God: Yahweh, the LORD. You see, the LORD Himself is the song that energizes His Creation. His Name represents His very presence, dwelling with us. When God revealed His Name, Yahweh, to His people, He was revealing His very Self in all of His glory, power, goodness and love.

So, when David says, "How majestic is your name in all the earth!" he is saying: "Wow! There is no one else like You in the whole world!"

### **Wow Child:**

Like David, we were created to worship and praise the God Who created us and rescued from sin and death. Listen to how David puts it:

#### **[Slide 3]**

*Psalm 8:1b NIV*

*You have set your glory in the heavens.*

It's not hard to see the glory and majesty of God when we look up at the Milky Way on a summer night. Everything we know about the universe only magnifies the majesty and power of the God who created one hundred billion galaxies.

But David says that when it comes to building a "fortress of praise" here on Planet Earth, the job falls first and foremost to the littlest ones among us!

#### **[Slide 4]**

*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.*

Human beings were created specifically to say "Wow!" to the mighty works of God. And no one does it better than a child.

## **Creation Work**

### **A "Fortress of Praise"?**

How can it possibly be that the praise of a child *establishes a stronghold or fortress* against God's greatest enemies? What do any of us amount to in the vastness of God's Universe? We're here for a short time, living on a tiny planet that orbits a medium-sized star in but one of one hundred billion galaxies.

God's enemies are the very forces that He tamed and subdued to create a world out of chaos. Paul tells us that only Christ Himself will defeat the last enemy of Death.

David asks the same question:

**[Slide 5]**

*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,  
  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?*

**"A little lower than God"**

David answers his own question when he writes:

**[Slide 6]**

*Psalm 8:5-8 NIV*

*You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
  
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their 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.*

God created us in His own image, and gave us the assignment of bringing His good Creation order to our world – especially the other living creatures we share it with. In David's time, the primary role of a king was to provide an ordered world – a world that was safe and prosperous. The king was seen as the representative of God Himself.

David says that you and I are meant to fulfill that same rule in the little part of God's Creation that He entrusts to us. We have good work to do!

### **Creation Work:**

In a very real way, everything we do is meant to be an act of worship and praise to our King and Creator. Worship is not just singing a few songs on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning. It is not something delegated to a few specialists. Everything we do that enhances God's reputation in the world is an act of worship. Every time we obey Him and acknowledge Him as Lord, we are shouting His praises. Every time we say "Thank You" to Him, we are building a fortress against all of the dark forces that would destroy His world.

Worship is Creation work. It is what you were created for. Instead of calling ourselves *homo sapiens (wise man)*, we should see ourselves as *homo adorator – (worshipping humans!)* And that means that we all have work to do. Worship is what we were created for.

### **Created for Worship**

#### **You worship what you love the most:**

Because we were created to worship, we *cannot not worship*. We will be giving our adoration and affection, our attention and praise to something or someone all the time. A thousand things will compete for your worship. Some of them may become your gods, if you're not careful.

But to fulfill our human destiny, our worship can only go to the One Who created us. God Himself gave us the ultimate Worship Command:

#### **[Slide 7]**

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV*

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

There is no room for multiple gods. The LORD, and the LORD alone is worthy of being loved with "all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Isn't that what makes a child's worship and praise so powerful? A kid can listen to Mozart and shout "Wow!" He doesn't care whether or not it's "appropriate" in a concert hall. He doesn't ask permission. His praise just explodes out of his little spirit.

That's what real worship looks like. Wow!

### **Taking worship out of the box:**

So, it's time to take worship out of box we have put it in. It isn't just something a few people are into. It isn't optional. It is a deep part of who we are. It informs our every decision, our every hope and dream. It is the carrier wave for every prayer.

When we worship, it's not all about us. It's all about God. We can raise our hands to Him in praise and adoration. We can sing and shout out His praise. We can express what is bubbling up inside us. That's what we were made to do.

It's time to take worship out of the box. It's time to dare to be a Wow Child in God's concert hall.

When we gather at church, we recharge our worship batteries. We refocus. We worship together – something we don't get to do the rest of the week. Some of you are called – like the Levites in the temple in David's time – to lead us into greater freedom in worship. You may be called to use your voice, or your ability to play an instrument. You may be called to use your technical abilities in video or sound.

If so, we need you. We are called to build a fortress of worship and praise that will stand against the dark forces that would destroy God's good creation. It's time to tell our world:

### **[Slide 8]**

*Psalm 8:9 NIV*

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

