

As One At 10 - 26th July 2021 Extolling the Creator

I wonder if you have ever tried to describe what you imagine God to be like. Quite often people think of old men with long flowing beards who look more like Father Christmas or Dumbledore sitting around on clouds or fireside chairs dispensing wisdom – or perhaps they think of a powerful figure throwing lightning bolts around the universe like a super hero out of a Marvel film.

It is impossible to describe God but many many people have tried whether through words or pictures.

In this summer series on the psalms we are celebrating a number of different aspects of God's character which lead us to respond in worship and awe. Today we Extol the Creator, recognising God as described at the beginning and end of these verses as Majestic in all the earth!

So firstly let us **MARVEL AT HIS MAJESTY** – As our loving perfect Kingly Ruler whom David describes as Lord...**our** Lord. He is Majestic – Regal/Royal – and inspires in us awe and respect as we come to him.

We all know that people call our Queen 'Your Majesty' – if you or I were invited for tea...we would curtsy or bow before her, recognising her as our Queen and in awe and with respect calling her Majesty! Why? Because she is our Sovereign Ruler – she rules over our country and to be honest I think I would find myself quite speechless in her presence. How much more so with the God of the Universe – He isn't just King over 1 country, but he rules over all the universe – he has made and rules over the heavens and the earth and every living thing! That's enough to leave anyone speechless.

Sandwiched in between verses 1 and 9 is a beautiful description of the breadth of God's creative power and flare, culminating in his creation of human beings, whom he cares for and has given great responsibility to.

So as we marvel at his majesty and sovereign Lordship over all things – (from the single grain of sand to the magnificent ranges of mountains stretching right across our world), let us secondly, as verse 2 describes of children and infants come and **WORSHIP AT THE WONDER OF CREATION.**

Only 10 days ago I was lying on a huge beach, a vast expanse of sand and sea and marvelling at the wonder of God's creation....I was in Northumberland. It was utterly awe inspiring! Miles and miles of sand on both sides and the endless ocean in front.

Do you know that one world renown Mathematician estimates there to be (after much calculation) more than 5 billion billion grains of sand across the earth? Another physicist suggests could be between 100 and 400 billion stars in the Milky Way and that across the universes there could be at least 10 billion billion stars! Doesn't that leave you breathless....gasping at the Wonder of God's creative hand? I can imagine David lying on his back in a field as he write this psalm looking at the sky and wondering about the stars...awestruck as he looks up, praising God and delighting in the vast extent of His majestic creative flare as he, as the song says 'flung stars into space'. As he considers God, he worships just as children and infants do in the previous verse and there is so much power in their worship. Worship brings God glory, and it delights in who God is and all he has done. And worship has power that stands against those that hate God and silences them as they seek to

cause trouble! Worship of our Majestic Creator God should be as natural to us as breathing...and impact our whole lives, not just as we gather on Sunday mornings.

Verse 4 tells us that David as he sees looks into the beautiful skies is overwhelmed that God should consider making little tiny, seemingly insignificant human beings to live on His world and more than that to care for them – each one, individually precious and of eternal value to the Creator. That's you and me....He describes us wonders of God's creation and it blows his mind that God should even think about us. And yet he does....and he has made us even more awesome than angels and with a huge part to play in the ongoing care of animals, birds, fish and the seas, plants, skies and all that lives and breathes across the planet. He is the sovereign and majestic loving King and humans have been given some ruling responsibility too, to look after everything God has made. We are made in His image...There is only one true majestic God, but we have been given capacity to love others, to care for the world, to do good and to be like Him. That's what God longs for us.

God didn't just make us to kick back, lie on our backs and look at the stars or to lie on the beach and soak up the sun. Verse 7 tells us that we are made to rule over the works of his hand. People are to **TAKE SERIOUSLY THE RESPONSIBILITY GOD HAS GIVEN** them and we are to rule over all he has made. And that means we are to care for it...enable the world to flourish just as God does.

Unfortunately, we know that throughout history we have been horrifically poor at caring for our world, to the point where we are in a catastrophic state – only a couple of weeks ago, the impact of climate change brought on by our lack of care of our planet resulted in unexpected and terrible floods across Europe which left many dead, and homes and livelihoods destroyed.

Yes we are all trying to do our bit for the planet - To recycle or reuse but there is so much to be done and so much that we need to reverse as a result of our own greed, and selfishness and sin against God and other people.

Only one person in all history has truly cared perfectly for people and for this world and that is the Lord Jesus. The Son of God, the perfect human being and perfect King – It is he who we should emulate, and He who we are called to follow as we seek to love others, care for our world and honour God as our Creator and King.

So, as we Marvel at the Majesty of God and Worship at the Wonder of Creation, let's take our responsibility as God's children, his family to care for all He has made...starting with the everyday – In our homes and schools, and churches, thinking through what we spend our money on, or how we treat others ensuring we don't live as self-centred consumers who drain our world of its beauty and life but instead extol and honour Our loving Creator, who has called us to care for the world he has made.

Response Prayer:

Father God, we thank you that you are our Majestic, Creator God who has made all things and especially us! We ask that you would help us to love your world as you do and to make a difference where we can to look after it and to help all creation to flourish and thrive. May we take the responsibility you have given us seriously, and follow you faithfully all the days of our lives. AMEN