

What do we mean when we talk about magnifying the name of God?
Because this language is certainly something that is biblical, but it's not necessarily the way that we talk.

When I hear the word magnifying I'm picturing using a magnifying glass and trying to see something that is small to enlarge it.

But the biblical idea is to be praising something.

It would be trying to talk highly of them.

The way you might talk about how great the Thunder were this year.

Or how wonderful your granddaughter is.

But this morning we are going to look at three reasons we should magnify God.

There are plenty more, but these are the three Psalm 8 looks at.

I. Magnify God because of His name (v. 1, 9).

The Psalm begins and ends with the same verse and the same call.

It is bookended by the call to magnify God.

God's name is majestic.

It is His name alone that's unbelievable

Just hearing the name of God, should fill us with worship.

Just thinking of the name of Jesus should move us

He is worth being honored, and He is worth being praised, no matter what He has done for us or how He has worked in our life personally, but simply for the fact of what His name is.

Names are incredibly important.

And we all still know names matter.

Even though we don't treat names today with the same kind of level of reverence and respect as people in the ancient world.

But even today we acknowledge and we understand that names have meaning.

There are times you might look up what your name means.

And we trust what a random website tells us that it's great.

We love it if it's not great then we ignore it.
But we know that our names do have weight.

When someone hears your name, there's a reputation that goes along with your name.

There are people who may not know you, but they may have heard of your name.

They may have heard good things about your name.

They may have heard bad things about your name.

They may have seen your name load across their screen as they scroll and see some of the things that you have posted or some of the things that you have said

It's all about understanding that our names matter.

But we normally think of our names is some way to express ourselves.

Or you can think about the difficulty of trying to name a child.

Every time we have had children it is a whole ordeal trying to name them.

You make lists and veto each others ideas.

And you think and dream of who this baby will be.

And what kind of name they should have.

You get plenty of opinions.

Anytime you tell someone your baby name, they will tell you whether they think it's good or whether they think it's bad.

And some people like to make unique name so even though it's a normal name like David they might spell it so weirdly that no one in the history of the world has ever made their name look like this, so they can feel unique because now their name is the only one.

God does not need any of that

God does not have to have his name changed or rewarded or spelled silly ways.

His name is majestic.

Our God's name is majestic
I know that God is not His name. It is just a title.
It is a category of being.
He is not a god He is the God.
But that alone is not His name we call other things in God.

His name is majestic.
And He has many names.
There are countless times in scripture God is named by someone.

The first time this happens is when Hagar is used as a pawn between Sarai and Abraham so that they can have a son.
But then she's mistreated, she's forced into doing this.
She doesn't get a vote.
And then after they have another baby boy, they decide they don't want her anymore. They cast her out into the wilderness to die.

And she lays there with her son expecting to die she cries out and God hears her.
God saves her life and promises that her son will not be forgotten, but in fact, he too will be blessed in that great nations and kings will come from her leftover son.

In a response, she is the first person who names God and she calls him the "God who sees"
And it matters acknowledging that he is not just a Joneric God he is the God who sees, and he sees us in our distress.

There are many others.
Prince of peace, Emmanuel God with us
God, our healer, God, our provider
Jehovah
Elohim
El Shaddai

Addonai
The Lord our shepherd.
The Lord our banner.

All of those are his names
And there are many more.
It would be worth your time to just go and study God's word all the
different times God is named something.
That would be fruitful.

There's one time that God discloses His own name.
There's a sense in which those other names that are legitimate or are
almost like nicknames that we call God.
But when Moses loses a sheep he goes into a cave and he sees a bush
that is on fire, but not burning.
And he hears the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob call out to him from
the bush
And when Moses asked, what's your name God says "I am who I am
Or "I will be who I will be"

It's an incredible name. It's also in some ways ambiguous.
Because it's hard to pin down what does that mean?
There are some names even today we stereotype.
Or we wouldn't name our children that because of the baggage.
Like Karen or Chad.

We cannot do that with God's name.
It is unlike any name that every has been.
Because His name simply is.

We also need to talk about the name of Jesus.
The name above all names.

His name is Majestic and one day every knee will bow before his name, and every tongue will confess his name as the Lord of Lords in the king of Kings.

With His name, the demons are cast out.

In the early church, some apologists, people who would try to make the case of why Christianity should be recognized as true would say the name of Jesus cast out demons.

You guys go and use all the names of all of your gods that you want, but none of them will work only the name of Jesus.

The name of Jesus is the only reason our prayers can be heard and accepted.

Jesus is our mediator.

He came down to be one of us.

And after the resurrection stands at the right hand of God.

And so every time we pray when we finish, we say, in the name of Jesus. That is not just meant to be an empty Christian phrase that when we're trying to think of what to say

Because it is in His name that we claim God should listen to our prayers
It is in His name that we have the authority to ask God to do something.
That's why we always pray in the name of Jesus.

"How majestic is His name in all the earth."

It's a recognition that God's name is majestic in every place

Jesus and God are not just regional or national gods.

And those days every country had their own God, their own deity their own temple.

Your God might be awesome over there, but when you come over here, this is where my God is awesome and your God is not good here.

Jesus's name is majestic and powerful in every nation in every place in every tongue and in every language.

So the Holy Spirit came when the church spread immediately all over the world just among the Jews or the Romans or the Greeks.

There's a reason that Jesus's name is often used as a curse.

And they say it partially because it's just transgressive and everyone knows it's wrong to do that.

But in a twisted, backwards way, it is also an acknowledgment that his name has power.

Whether you pray in the name of Jesus or whether you curse his name, his name is Majestic and there's power in it.

The other part of his name is Majestic and all the Earth A prayer and a worship and a calling for God's name to be magnified over the entire You can think of the beginning of the Lord's prayer we begin to say God hallowed be your name.

Or we pray that God's name would be magnified Will would be honored. It would be treated as majestic would be worshiped.

We pray that the name of Jesus would be magnified.

It would be seen as majestic in every country in every place above every other name.

We should magnify God just because of His name.

God's name is worth magnifying.

How do you treat His name?

Do you use a curse?

Do you take God's name in vain?

Do you always describe it with the proper honor?

Do you use God's name to justify whatever you want?

II. Magnify God because of His glory (v. 1-2).

Verse one actually ends by talking about The heaven

"You have set your glory above the heavens"

How the heavens and the sky, the planets, the comet stars, they reflect the glory of God

Throughout history mankind has looked up at the stars in the heavens and seen glory

We look up in the skies.

We all know that we are seeing something glorious.

Even the most ardent atheist or doubting agnostic when you look up at the heavens you can't help but be awed at its glory.

And there's some who looked at the stars and they've worshiped them

There are those who have worshiped the sun and worship the moon because they rightly understood.

This is incredibly majestic and there's wondrous glory here, but they didn't understand it was a reflection, not the ultimate thing.

When we look at the heavens, it should make us worship and magnify God
We sit in a field on a cool day and look at the clouds.

See how God formed clouds with his hands, and he pushes them across the sky and how high they are we should glorify.

We see the beauty of a sunrise as what once terribly dark, begins to retreat, and all of the colors shine. We should magnify God.

We see the setting of the sun in the evening is it seems to disappear away from you the last few days we should magnify God.

Verse two we see God's glory and how he moves in the world.

"Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes to still the enemy and the avenger."

God gets most of his glory, shows off most of his power, by using the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

When you read through the Bible, you never see God picking the best.

Can you think of like the draft we have for football or most of our professional sports.

All of the athletes are done with their collegiate careers and now all these companies are gonna do interviews and study and take turns picking who's gonna be on their team.

It's more elaborate version of what happened in gym and PE.

It's time to play dodgeball and you wanna pick the best players for your team.

But these teams are crazy. They will scour and study every second that's ever been recorded of someone playing a sport.

They will measure every inch of your body because they usually think they've got it down to a science that you need to be at least tall in your hand should be this wide and your wingspan should be this much and you should be able to jump exactly this high.

They will go back at the interview people's elementary school teachers to ask them questions.

All this and more to try and determine who is the best.

Because that is who they want to pick.

And the earth has often been in trouble.

The people of God has walked away.

The economy is terrible

The enemy is too strong.

And we need someone charismatic, a genius, a great military leader, a wonderful executive.

But that is not who God picks.

What God often does is like if he had the first pick in the draft for football and instead of picking the obvious quarterback, he would pick a clumsy girl who's never played sports in her life and doesn't really like to get hit.

That's what God does. He picks babies and infants.

Whose words sound like babel.

But is all God needs.

He says this one I'm gonna take that and I'm gonna use that to defeat the best.

Pharaoh tried to kill and destroy all of God people and one baby was putting a boat and cast out into a river with a prayer that it would wouldn't die at least not a pharaoh's hand.

And God says that baby right there that's the one who's gonna set all of these slaves free.

And Moses comes and when God chooses them says wow, I can't even talk. I have a speech and nobody listens to me. Nobody likes me and it doesn't matter you.

Israel needs a brave military genius to come deliver them, and God goes and picks Gideon who's the most scared of everybody in the country And then God keeps telling him yeah your army is too big. We need like 300 people that's it and with them I'm gonna kill hundreds of thousands.

Jesus comes with his disciples. He doesn't go to the seminaries the theological schools he goes and he picks tax collectors and fisherman says these guys this is who I'm gonna use.

Most of the time when God does things and he does miraculous things he picks unlikely people so that we don't get confused as to who made this happen.

But we are Americans.

And anytime there's a successful company or team with a championship or anyone doing anything great.

We're have plenty of words to describe how great some individual is and why they made it happen and now their hard work, their talent, their genius, their whatever made this take place

We still do that even with churches and ministries.

Wow look at this. God gifted God made them, but we still really are giving them credit.

Most of the time God's glory comes from using the weakest and most unlikely to bring all the enemies plans to nothing

Israel is waiting and hoping for their king it would come from David's line to establish a kingdom forever and said they get Jesus we spent 30 years working as a carpenter and a tiny village spends three years of his ministry, homeless and wandering and then dies naked in the most horrific way imaginable crucified on a cross.

But it was victory. It brought salvation and it glorified God.

We should magnify God because of who he chooses to use and how he chooses to do it.

And we pray for things maybe we shouldn't pray that God would send us the most gifted amazing next family, pastor, associate president or governor.

You should just pray God will send somebody faithful that he is going to use. He's gonna do something and nobody can take credit for.

My favorite examples of this is just Jonah who has one of the biggest revivals in the Bible on the entire city of Nineveh and the most wicked place, and the most evil empire spends days tearing their clothes, asking God for forgiveness and Jonah preached one of the worst sermons ever

I don't ever hear revivalist studying Jonah's technique.

Because no one came to repent because of the great charisma.

That whole city was converted, and the preacher didn't even want them to be helped. Nobody would listen and God did it anyway.

Verse three look up at the stars.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set into place,"

Sometime just go out into the country late away from city lights and just look up at the sky count the stars.

Think about how far away they are.

Imagine what it would be to travel there to sit on the moon

2000s of years to figure out how to do it.

Humanity has only done it a few times.

And plenty of people don't believe it.

Look at all of that wonder and glory and Majesty.

Beauty in the galaxy, you can't even see all of the galaxies in the world.

Our best scientist only have guesses as to how big the universe is how far it goes. What's out there?

Behold the glory of God.

I don't know how you can look at the heavens and not want to praise God in worship.

III. Magnify God because He magnified us (v. 3-8).

This is the heart of the Psalm.

It is what it repeats over and over.

Verse 4, **"What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"**

Remember this question comes in the middle of verse 3.

They are connected in a single sentence.

When we behold the glory of God,

When we look up at the wonder of the stars,

When we see the work of God's hand on the earth,

It should make us wonder why God loves us.

Because His love makes no sense.
There is no logical reason that God should love us this way.
There is no reason that God should care about us the way that He does.
And yet, God does.
He is mindful of all of us.

Verse 5, **"Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor."**

Out of all of God's creation, only mankind was made in the image of God.
Only man and woman were given the special mark.
The angels are incredible, but they are not given this special place.

Even though they are higher than us.
They are objectively greater beings.
We only get to see glimpses of the spiritual realm, but they live there.
They can behold the glory of God.

But God has given us the crown.
It is we who can be co-heirs with Christ.
It is mankind that will sit on thrones and judge the angels and nations at the end of the story.

And we have been given great glory and honor.
Jesus when He saw that God had given everything into His hands stripped down and washed his disciples feet.
He magnified us even though there was nothing magnificent about us.

Verse 6, **"You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet."**

God has given us dominion over the earth.
God created all things.
And then He handed us the keys to all of creation.
He put us in charge as stewards over it.

What a gift and what a charge.
This is why our work matters.
Why it matters how we tend to our plants and our pets.
Why how we treat the climate and the resources God has given us matters.
Because this whole world has been entrusted to us.
And it is our job to care for it.
To treat the gifts of God in a manner worthy of God.

How incredible is this, that God would let us be in charge.
Even though we ruined it immediately in the garden of Eden.
This is why God is worthy of worship.

Verse 7, **"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."**

All of those, we are over.
Because of the grace of God.
Every animal and every creature.
Even the ones under the sea that no eye has seen yet.

And the realization of this should not fill us with pride.
It is not a license to do whatever we want.
What it should do, is make us want to worship God.
To realize what an incredible gift He has given us.
He has given us everything.

But the greatest thing He has given us is Jesus Christ.
That God loved us so much He sent His son to us.
That God was willing to put on human flesh.
To become truly one of us.
To live among us.
And to die for us.
To die on the cross in our place.

That He came down to earth to defeat sin and death so that we could be free.

He did not do that just for the animals.

He did not do this for the angels.

He did not do it for the stars.

He became one of us.

So that we could become like Him.

And so that one day when Jesus returns all of the dead in Christ will raise up in resurrection.

And we will get to rule and reign with Christ.

He does this not because He owes it to us.

But out of the abundance of His love and grace.

What is man?

What is this God?

We should magnify God.

Magnify Him because of His name, His glory, and because He has magnified us.

We are going to sing a song now based on this Psalm.

And I hope you are ready to magnify and worship our Lord.

Because He deserves it.