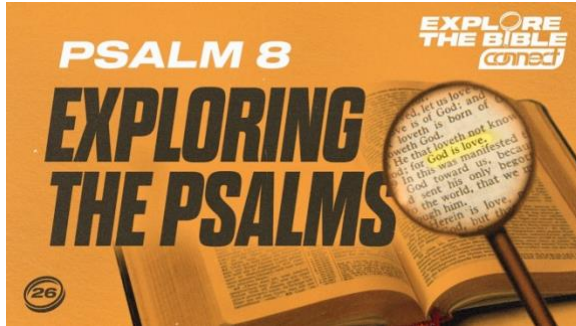




Amir Tsarfati
Explore the Bible with Dr. Rick Yohn
Psalm 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWSQ0WP3NRY>



AMIR: Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati, live from CONNECT here in Galilee, the Jezreel Valley in Israel. And once again, we are here to *Explore the Bible* with my good friend, Dr. Rick Yohn. Shalom, Dr. Rick, how are you, my friend?

RICK: I am doing very, very well and I'm so excited about what we're going to be doing today.

AMIR: Yes, exactly. I mean, today is definitely a very unique day because we've studied a lot and we kind of try to teach people how to approach the Bible. In the last few of our programs, we taught from the New Testament, we looked into mostly the Gospels, but this time it's a very unique book that we're going to look into. A book that every Jew around the world holds dear to his heart because it's almost like a lucky charm for a lot of Jewish people. And I'm talking about the book of Psalms. But before we dive into one of the psalms today and then next time another one, can you please lead us in prayer as we start right before we go into the Word of God?

RICK: I'd love to. Lord God, we are so thankful for the entire Scriptures, but especially for the Psalms. Lord, as we read the Psalms, we see people's hearts, people who are in anguish in some of the psalms and people who are just rejoicing in other psalms. And I pray that You would help us to get into their heart and their mind as they express their love for You, their gratitude for You as they praise You, as they are in awe of Your majesty. And especially as we look at the Psalm today. Lord, we are so thankful that You are a majestic God, a great and mighty God. We ask that Your Holy Spirit will be our instructor, that He will help us to understand and to actually feel the

psalmist as the psalmist is either expressing praise and thanksgiving, or is lamenting a situation that he is experiencing. So, open our eyes to see and our ears to hear and our hearts to receive that which You have for us in that matchless name of Yeshua HaMashiach, Amen.

AMIR: Amen. Amen. So Dr. Rick, listen, first of all, I want to tell you this. As I started, I said that the book of Psalms is very unique in the eyes and the hearts of all the Jewish people. A lot of them actually for a “good luck” or some sort of for divine protection or for blessing upon them, they walk with a tiny little miniature book of Psalms. I mean, there’s no way they can read it, but at least they have it on them. That’s how much they feel that the book has power.

Now, of course, I personally don’t think that this particular book is more powerful than any other book. In fact, there’s only one book in the Bible that the Bible says that if you read and put to use the words of this book, you will have a great blessing. That’s the book of Revelation, of course. But when it comes to the book of Psalms, again, the Jewish people will always tell you, if someone is sick, say Psalms, recite Psalms. If somebody died, recite a specific psalm. For the Sabbath day, there is a specific psalm. And for the day of Memorial Day for the fallen soldiers, there’s a specific psalm. There’s always something in that book that we can identify as something that relates to a situation or a period in our life as a nation. And it’s very, very interesting.

And again, also, you and I know that you could analyze this book as a poet and as a musician, someone who writes music, because there’re a lot of beautiful rules there. But as a messianic Jew who attends a messianic congregation every Shabbat, when I’m obviously in Israel, we sing, most of our songs are from the book of Psalms. And in fact, the one psalm we’re going to look into today is a psalm that every messianic Jew knows by heart, because we always sing that one in our congregations.

Now, having said that, I wanted to ask you first, give us an overview of the book of Psalms because a lot of people don't know that the book itself, which contains 150 psalms, is actually divided to five sub-books. So can you enlighten us about this?

RICK: Well, yes. When you think of that first book, Psalms 1 through 41, it's a focus on David. These are Davidic Psalms. And then Book 2, Psalm 42 to 72...

AMIR: ... So when you said focus on David, that means David wrote them.

RICK: Right.

AMIR: There you go.

RICK: And then this next section is Psalm 42 to 72 and here we have Psalms of Korah and Asaph and also David. When we get to Book 3, Psalm 73 to 89, and it's Asaph and Korah. And then Book 4, Psalm 90 to 106, we actually have Moses in there in Psalm 90. And then Book 5 is Psalm 107 to 150. And these are the songs of Asaph as the special holidays Jews going up to Jerusalem and they would just be praising the Lord as they ascended. Though it's just neat to know how these psalms were collected from Moses down to David and even beyond. And most likely, when you think of it, we're not sure who collected and how everything was put together. What we know [is] that most likely Ezra had something to do with that.

AMIR: Yeah, it's very interesting that you say that... It's very interesting that you said that because of course Moses, as the Bible says, wrote Psalm 90 speaking of his old age. I mean, he thought then that 80 is old, but obviously it wasn't. But the thing is people may not know that when we found the Dead Sea Scrolls, in one of the scrolls we found an extra psalm which was *not* in the canon. It was known as Psalm 151, but then when you read it, when you read that Psalm, it is definitely clear why it's not part of our Bible. Either it's not David that wrote it, or David got up that morning on the wrong foot and was full of himself. [RICK: Laughter] Because the psalm

talks about the Lord chose me from among all my brothers to do this. It's all about me and me and me and it's certainly not the spirit of the Psalms and the spirit of David as we see in everything else that he wrote. And so I could easily see why the Holy Spirit would not include that in what we see today as the book of Psalms. So if someone said, "Hey, we found extra psalms." Hey, we found a lot of other things, but the Holy Spirit is not allowing them to be part of the Bible because they were not inspired. It may have been written by people, but they were not written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

RICK: And Amir, the thing I love about the psalms is they are expressions of the heart. I mean, when you look at the epistles, these are directives for how to live the Christian life. When you look at the Gospels, it's all about who this Jesus really is. You look at the book of Acts, and well, these are the ministries, the workings of the Holy Spirit as the church developed. You look at the book of Revelation and of course, it's talking all about the future. But when you look at the Psalms, it's the heart where people... I mean, some of the expressions in the psalms we're wondering, "Boy, I don't know if I would pray that. I don't know if I would even say that to God." But boy, in the Psalms, people pour out their hearts, especially the psalms of David.

AMIR: Yeah, so you know...

RICK: And in this Psalm 8...

AMIR: Yeah, we're going to look at Psalm 8 in a second. Yes, but before we do that, I wanted to ask you in general, what should we look for when exploring the Psalms? And then of course, we'll go into Psalm 8. But in general, when we look at the book of Psalms, all 150 of them, what should we be looking for when we explore that book? Because that's what we want to teach people, obviously.

RICK: Well, some of the psalms have historical backgrounds. And sometimes at the title of the psalm, it will mention when David was running away from Saul or when he was in the stronghold. Well, then when you find an historical event, I encourage people to go to that historical event to find out more what happened historically, and then you can understand better the expression of David at that point. Then others, they don't have any historical significance as far as we know, but they have musical titles. And when they talk about these musical instruments, of course, we're not quite sure what that musical instrument was or what it looked like. But also go for the heart of the psalmist. And as we read Psalm 8 today, I would like you to read it in your language as it was written. And just get the expression as you read this, what is the psalmist feeling? I mean, it's a feeling of exhilaration, but read it in Hebrew and let us feel what you are feeling as you read it. And then I'll read this psalm in English.

AMIR: Okay, no problem. [Reading in Hebrew] Go ahead, read it in English. Beautiful.

RICK: **"¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor."** What a privilege for us. **"⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"** (Psalm 9:1-9, NIV) It just reminds me of Psalm 19:1: The heavens declare the glory of God. I mean, I don't know when David wrote this... looking up into the skies... You

know I love photography, and I love to be out. I love to be out there shooting the glory of God. That's what I see when I go out, when I'm shooting these birds that are flying and I shoot certain scenes out there. I am amazed, and it just warms my heart to see the glory of God. Whether it's up in the mountains or whether it's in the canyons or just around the water and seeing the birds, this is the creation of God. David is just saying it's unbelievable when I look around it tells me all about who God is. He is a majestic God. Now, most people, most of us don't know Hebrew that well. A lot of us don't know Hebrew at all. But when he says, "LORD, our Lord," he's using two different Hebrew words. So Amir, why don't you explain that to us?

AMIR: Well, I mean, there is Adonai. First of all, it starts with the letters for Yehovah, Jehovah, and then it says the actual word Adonai, Adonenu, our Lord. So first of all, it's Jehovah, it's the name of God, and then it's our Lord. It's not just God, it's *our* Lord. It's a very close relationship. It's like our Father which is in heaven. It's not just Father, it's *our* Father. And it's very important, I think, here. But also it's in the plural case here. So it's like David is writing not just as an individual, but also as a part of a nation, part of a group. And so yeah, so definitely identifying "the God" and making sure everybody knows it is our God. He is our God.

RICK: And then when you look at this and you see sort of an outline here because you have the majesty of God and then the insignificance of man, and then the honor that God gives to us. And then once again, the majesty of God. Psalm 8 begins with the same verse as it ends with. And we have another number of psalms that do that. You know, "how majestic is your name in all the earth!" And then at the end, "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" And the other thing I find here is that the first line, you go to the first line and then the second line enhances the first line.

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: Like “LORD, our Lord.” Why are you saying that way? Well, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

AMIR: Your name,

RICK: Your glory— Yeah. And the name, tell us the Hebrew word for name.

AMIR: Shem, Ham and Yefet, of course, these are the sons of Noah, and we definitely have that. But my point is that Jewish people, when they talk about God, they’re very much afraid to use His name in vain. And so they don’t even say Jehovah. They say Hashem, Baruch Hashem, blessed be the name, and “Hashem told me, Hashem said this.” They don’t want to say His name. So they say, “the name.” They don’t say His name, they say “the name.”

RICK: The name.

AMIR: It bears a huge significance for the Jewish people. And yes, you’re right. It does come from that name of Shem: Shem, Ham and Yefet, of course.

RICK: And Hebrew names have significance. I mean, when we name our children, name our children out of, sometimes out of nowhere, with very little significance. But names in Hebrew are very, very important.

AMIR: Correct. Very much so. And I think you can tell us about how in John chapter 1 we see that.

RICK: Yes, in fact, let’s see; what verse is that in John (chapter) 1?

AMIR: 41 to 42. These are the two verses that refer to that.

RICK: Yeah.

AMIR: John 1:41-42. I mean, if you want, I can also read it in Hebrew, but I believe that in the English one won’t be less significant. But again, John 1:41-42. Do you want to read it in English?

RICK: Yes, I am reading from the NIV here. Jesus looked, well, let's just get to, yeah, **41: “⁴¹**
The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the
Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said,
‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).”
(John 1:41-42 NIV) That's the only disciple that had three names.

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: The Jewish name, Greek name and Aramaic name. And He has changed his name because of the plans that He had for him that Peter himself didn't know what those plans were.

AMIR: That is, of course, then we see in Matthew 16:17 in the area of Caesarea Philippi, where He said... “¹⁷ **Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven....’” (Matthew 16:17)**
So He even named him “the son of Jonah,” Bar-Jonah.

RICK: What a difference when you think of the significance of those names that Peter was going to have an assignment that he never dreamed of having, never thought about having. But God had a plan for him and changed his name because names are significant in Hebrew. I'm just thinking also in Isaiah where Isaiah says, “I and my sons,” he didn't say billboards, but basically that's what he meant. We are billboards, so to speak, to the nation because of the names of Isaiah and then Shear-Jashub and my favorite name, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. I love that name. [Laughing]

AMIR: Yes.

RICK: When you hear Shear-Jashub, “remnant will return.” And throughout the Scriptures, there's always a remnant. God has a remnant that He is going to bring to Himself, and we look forward to that day.

AMIR: By the way, before He said that—okay, go ahead.

RICK: I want our readers to know the significance of Hebrew names, and when you are reading about these individuals, look up their name in Hebrew.

AMIR: Yeah, I agree with you because that's where I really feel sorry for you because you guys, if you only knew how much you butchered the Hebrew names when you tried to pronounce them, and by doing so, you actually literally take away their meaning because the meaning are from the Hebrew words that the name is made of. And it's often referring to God, most times it's referring to God. I mean, we are named after something that should give glory or should describe our God, and that's the beauty of it. And like, for example, my second son, Elad. Elad means God is eternal. Of course, that's not my son, he's not God. My son was called Elad *because* God is eternal. And that's the point. We always name our children in ways that either describe God or give Him honor or glory. And yeah, I think it's beautiful, and I always tell people, try... Look, it's okay if you have different versions of your English Bible, but when it comes to names, go to the Hebrew and try to understand what the Hebrew pronunciation is and what it means because there will be a meaning to that name.

RICK: And the other thing I like our viewers to note, the word “You” or “Yours”, just to underline or to circle the number of times “You” or “Yours” is used because David's focus is on God.

AMIR: God, yes.

RICK: *You* have done this. *You* have provided this. *You* have made this. This is the work of *Your* hands. And when you circle that, it's amazing how often it does come up. And the fact that what God has given us, He has, first of all, David says we are really insignificant when it comes to all this creation. And imagine what David would have said if he had the Hubble telescope and the other telescopes we have today, and just to know of the billions of galaxies out there, let alone just the stars. And as I look at this passage of Scripture, I see again David's heart, David's focus on

who God is, and yet He has given us responsibility. He says, “You are over everything.” When He put Adam in the Garden of Eden, He says, “Okay, I’ve given you this beautiful garden. Now you have to take care of it.” That includes the animals. “Name the animals.” And so God has given all of us great responsibility to care for what He has created.

AMIR: You’re right. And now when we have all this UFO-mania and everybody’s talking about extraterrestrial things, and everybody wants to... Just remember, it’s the Creator of all those galaxies that actually focused on our planet and zooms in all the way to each and every one of us. Like, wow, unbelievable. And I think, I think, that what you just said earlier that if David could have a very, very sophisticated telescope—obviously he would have seen all those thousands of light years across, billions of years to reach—but I think that many people when they read quotes and testimonies from astronauts over the decades and some biblical quotes also, what is it that they read? What is it that they...

RICK: ... Just some of these comments I looked up because of what they had seen. Apollo 8: Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders read from Genesis 1 while orbiting the moon on Christmas Eve. Jim Irwin, a personal friend of mine who drove the lunar rover said, “Jesus walking on the Earth is more important than man walking on the moon.” That’s a powerful statement. Buzz Aldrin served communion on the moon and read from John 15. And Charlie Duke read from Psalm 1 where he talks about the heavens declaring the glory of God. So, these are just some statements from astronauts, but listen to these statements from the Scriptures. In *Revealing Revelation*, the Apostle John, he saw ¹³ **...One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven**

stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.” (Rev. 1:13-17)

And then what Daniel saw... I mean, just imagine David sees creation and is amazed, but John saw the living Christ. And then when Daniel, with his experience, says Daniel saw the Ancient of Days. Daniel 7 is one of my favorite chapters because it's the only place where the Ancient of Days is mentioned. And he saw One like a Son of Man coming before the throne. ¹³ ... **One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him,”** One like the Son of Man, ¹⁴ ...**was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)**

AMIR: Yes, amen. And then we clearly see the connection to the Messiah here, obviously. And it's amazing how people don't understand that we have three different heavens. We see the skies, that's first heaven, and then there's the Space, which is second, and then the third one that only very few people had the privilege of having the opportunity to attend and see with their very eyes. That's obviously John the Beloved, Daniel, Ezekiel had it, Isaiah had it, I think Moses even with the elders on Mount Sinai had the same. Yeah, and so these are phenomenal things. And so Rick, what would you like our viewers to leave with from this podcast after we talked a little bit about Psalms in general and Psalm 8 in particular?

RICK: Well, once again, to focus on the majesty of God. We, ~~you know~~, here in the United States, we don't understand majesty. We don't understand kingship or anything like that. We've never been under a king. And so, respond to something that is so above us, has total authority between

life and death, and this is our God, a loving God, a God who cares for us. So the Bible talks about giving Him reverence.

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: And reverence is just awe. You know, when I hear people use the term “awesome,” it has been so downplayed. You go, you just go to McDonald’s, and you ask for something and then there’s one, “Oh, that’s awesome!” Oh man. No, awesome is just not even be able to express yourself because the majesty of God is so great. And so when you go to the Psalms again, feel the heart. When you read the Psalms, put yourself into that psalmist’s experience. And with Psalm 8, rejoice today in your Creator, in the One who has created everything, but has given you a wonderful assignment that you are over all things. So take care of what God is giving you the responsibility to care for.

AMIR: Amen, amen. Wow. So, Dr. Rick, thank you very much. What a great way to start looking into one of the most important books of the Bible, the book of Psalms. We looked into Psalm 8 today. In a couple of weeks, we’re going to look into another one, a very important one that is super-prophetic and messianic in nature. So I’m looking forward to our next program. Until then, I want to remind people, first of all, to go to our website, and you can have actually the full presentation of this program under *Explore the Bible* program. And you can also ask Dr. Rick directly questions regarding the content of our program today. Also, as always, I want to remind you that if you want to support us as a ministry, go to our website, beholdisrael.org and do it through there. We would appreciate that. We want to go on, continue and explore the Bible with you and help the world to look into the Word of God and put it into use and not to just leave it to dust on the shelf. Thank you, Dr. Rick. God bless you for helping us to look and explore the Bible. And I want to thank everyone for watching. Until next time, Shalom and goodbye.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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