

A Reading of Psalm 8 (*then and now...*)

Then...

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!

You have set your glory in the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established:

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,

the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Now...

O humankind, the sovereign ones, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Your glory outshines the stars of the night—yes, they are dim compared to your streetlights.

When I look at the world, the work of your hands,
the systems of communication and transportation and militarization,
what is God that you should even care;

what else could you need besides your money and your machines?

Human beings, look how you rule this world!

You shape and transform it according to your own desires.

You dominate every other living thing—
the fish of the sea, the creatures of the forest and field,
the birds of the air, and even the air itself.

All these things you have made your subjects,
in order to crown yourself with glory and honor.

O humankind, the sovereign ones, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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