



water from rock

## **Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – September 3, 2022**

The Lord be with you.

Do you ever feel small on the world stage? Do you ever feel like no more than a pawn in world history? Do you read the news and wonder if there's anything that you can do in the face of what is going on in the world? Well, if you feel small and insignificant, that is exactly what the evil one Satan wants you to feel, and so with the Bible in hand, I want to speak to the feeling that there's nothing that you and I can do. That were too small, too insignificant in the scheme of things.

And for this, I'm looking at Psalm 8, as it speaks of the splendor and majesty of God seen in the heavens, and the splendor and majesty of God that is seen in this incredible role that God has assigned you and me to play in world history. I read, Oh Lord are sovereign. How majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens, out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have found it a bulwark because of your foes to silence the enemy and the avenger. 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're mindful of them, mortals, that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

Now, it's a second verse that I wanna pick up on, and to look at it's an incredible meaning for you and me today, as it says that Out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have founded a bulwark because of your foes to silence the enemy, and the avenger. In Psalm 8, the Psalmist marvels at the night sky, the work of God's fingers the moon and the stars, and he marvels at the role that God has given human beings who are made a little lower than God. He marvels at the role that God has given to what he calls babes and infants.

Well, let me read that again. Out of the mouths of babes and infants, you have founded a bulwark because of your foes to silence the enemy and the avenger. So how was God going to silence his enemy? How is God going to establish a bulwark, a wall of protection against his foes? He says that it is out of the mouths of babes and infants. That's a curious phrase isn't it? Out of the mouths and babes and the infants. What is the psalmist is talking about here? That the heavens are the work of God's fingers, but the God's saving rule on earth comes from out of the mouths of babes and infants. What does that mean? Let us do a little bit of digging here, a little bit of Bible study. We do a word study and we find that this phrase, babes and infants, is used seven times in the Old Testament, and each of the seven times it is use of helpless people. Helpless people who are threatened with destruction. So babes and infants becomes, it becomes a good metaphor for the times that Israel is caught between the world's superpowers of Egypt and Babylon. They were like babes and infants.



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And you know, it also becomes a good metaphor for the times that the church of Jesus Christ feels so weak and powerless against the world. That out of the mouths of babes and infants God has founded a bulwark because of his foes to silence the enemy. You see what the psalmist is talking about here? Oh, he's talking about prayer. Out of the mouths of babes and infants... The child-like faith and prayer of God's people is what God uses as a wall of protection, a bulwark, and that God uses to silence the enemy. Listen to what John Calvin in his commentary on book of Psalms says about this verse. He says, the faithful prayer and praise of God's people, not necessarily their eloquence, but the faithful prayer and praise of God's people commences the work of slaying the foe. What majesty accrues to God when He brings into the field of battle, the poor in spirit, against arrogant hoards of wickedness in order to slay their intolerable pride in the dust. End of quote.

So in the face of world events, in the face of all the craziness and evil that we see going on, in the face of that, we might feel like babes and infants, but it is our child-like trust in God. It's in our prayers that God will use to defeat the enemy. Listen to what Peter Craft, a contemporary philosopher and theologian, listen to what he says about our prayers. "I strongly suspect that if we saw all the difference even the tiniest of our prayers to God make and all the people those little prayers were destined to effect, and all the consequences of those effects down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with all at the power of prayer, that we would be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives."

You and I, we have a big work to do, that out of our mouths God will silence the enemy. So I'm gonna close today with how the apostle Paul closed in his letter to the Roman Christians, that small band of believers meeting in house churches. Paul says in Romans 16:20, The God of peace. Most shortly, crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be With You.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.