

Small and Large

*What are human beings
that you are mindful of them?
—Psalm 8:4*

READ: Psalm 8

REFLECT: When I was young, I often looked at the stars on a clear night and took in the majesty of God’s vast creation. This verse resonates with what I felt back then—and occasionally today, too, though our town lights make the stars less visible.

More than anything, the grand night sky puts me in touch with how minor my problems are in the scheme of things. How infinitesimally small we are! Strangely, this is comforting. I think, *Maybe I shouldn’t worry so much.*

But the psalmist goes in a different direction. Given how great God’s glory and power are, why is God so mindful of us humans? We are even made “a little lower than God” (v. 5).

So I can look at the heavens for two reasons: (1) to remember how small I and my problems are in the greatness of God’s creation; and (2) to remember how God has crowned humans “with glory and honor” (v. 5).

This psalm teaches us the importance of worship since it puts us in touch with God’s glory and with our glory. Such worship helps me not to get too down on myself. It encourages me to live up to the image in which I’m made, to practice proper “dominion over the works of [God’s] hands” (v. 6). God embraces both our smallness and our greatness. And so should we.

—Gordon Houser

RESPOND: *O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*