The True and Better Story God has given us: He Is Worthy of Our Praise!

There are many voices in our world which would disorientate us away from God, His ways and truth. Here is one such voice:

"...The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference."

Richard Dawkins, River out of Eden.

THINK OF a time when you were in awe of something in the natural world, or the birth of a baby or something special - did that feel like the result of blind physical forces? Or was there something in your heart that connected you to the Creator who made it and us?

As Christians we have a true, bigger and better story on which to base our lives and orientate our lives as we will be reminded today as we look at Psalm 8.

Worship - our Number One Priority - verses 1 - 3

Children teach us about worship - it's natural, it's powerful!

"The worst moment for an atheist is when he feels a profound sense of gratitude and has no one to thank."

G K Chesterton

Our "Goldilocks planet" is in the right place in the universe for us to live, love God and others.

Praise of our God is a privileged and joy for He is worthy!

Human beings have a special place in God's heart and purpose verse 4-8

He made us and loves us

"We are made in God's image..." Genesis 1:27

We are made for Relationships with Him and others:

He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden...

"It is not good for a man to be alone.."

We are made with the ability to make choices - we are not robots

Like God we are creative. Also, we are stewards of what He has given us to "rule" and "subdue". Yet we are sinful and the world is fallen. We see the mess around us and some times within us.

Yet the psalmist does not see a fallen sinful world or people, he is a prophet anticipating God's redemption and completion of all that He has made in Jesus

Although we are sinful and our world is fallen, God has not abandoned us or the world He made. God sent His only Son Jesus to redeem us through his sacrificial death and resurrection so that we could be restored to what he originally intended for us - to reign with Him and be crowned with glory and honour.

The writer of Hebrews picks this up: **Hebrews 2:6-11**

God's purposes for humanity are summed up in Jesus. He is the only true human being, the first among many brothers and sisters. Although we are marred by sin, yet created in his image, through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we can become like Him, truly human. And, one day we shall be like Him fully.

Through what Jesus did we have a true, bigger and better story on which to base our lives and a loving and great God we can trust, no matter what is going on around us:

Some of those blessings of our story:

God made all things, including us and loves us.

We can be forgiven by faith in Christ and can have an



intimate relationship with God.

We can have better relationships with others because we can forgive others because Christ forgave us.

. **We can** reign in this world by overcoming sin and living holy lives.

We can see God's work in people's lives by our prayers, actions and witness.

We can be good stewards of the world He has made so that it can be a better place.

We are His people, the church, on earth to carry on His work empowered by the Holy Spirit until He comes.

Ultimately, we look forward to the restoration of what was lost and we shall be crowned with "glory and honour" as we reign with Him in new resurrection bodies in the New heaven and new earth and enjoy the presence of God who is love and glory.

What an amazing true story we believe in and base our lives on.

This story others need to know - why would we keep it to

ourselves?