

“Man: The Creator’s Creature”

Psalm 8

Knowing Him and Making Him Known

Among all things created, mankind is unique being an image-bearer.

“This psalm is an unsurpassed example of what a hymn should be, celebrating as it does the glory and grace of God, rehearsing who He is and what He has done, and relating us and our world to Him.” (Kidner, Psalms 1-72, 65-66).

I. The purpose of creation (vv. 1, 2, 9)

Creation silences the enemies of God.

II. The placement of man (vv. 3-8)

“Out of this whole array, from stars to sea-creatures, only man can *look* at this scene with the insight to ask such a question.”

A. Man’s comparative frailty (his insignificance [in relation to the heavens]) - Man is the object of God's attention (v.4; Heb. 2:6).

B. Man’s conferred dignity (His eminence) - Man is a little lower than God (v. 5) .

The Hebrew text uses *elohim*. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translates *elohim* to be “heavenly beings” or “angels.” The NAS uses “God” and the NIV and KJV use “angels.”

Humanity is uniquely human. There is nothing else in the entire world quite like him. Prior to the fall, man’s position in creation was second only to that of His Creator.

Man and man alone is the very image of God (*imago Dei*). Genesis 1:26, 27; 9:6 uses the words “image” and “likeness.”

1. Man is a personable being.

By personable we mean that man is comprised of three elements: intellect, volition, and emotion.

a. Man Is An Intellectual Being

b. Man Is A Volitional Being

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By volitional we mean that man has the capacity to choose between right and wrong, between those things that bring him pleasure and those things that do not, between concepts or philosophical ideologies. Man can choose the direction in which he desires to go, and the choice is always based on his desire. The question I always have is not over whether the individual has a will, but just how far the independent will of a moral creature can take him.

- c. Man Is an Emotional Being
Man has the capacity to feel, to express himself through responses of being happy, sad, fear, surprise, and pleasure.
 - 2. Man Is A Moral Being
Man has the ability to make ethical decisions.
 - 3. Man Is A Spiritual Being (Gen. 2:7; I Thess. 5:23)
Man has the ability to have a relationship with God. Man is comprised of an immaterial part (his soul and spirit) and a material part (his body).
- C. Man's constituted authority (His influence [in relation to the earth]) - Man has been given dominion over all creation (v. 6).

Adam functioned as a king over a kingdom and this lineage is traceable throughout Scripture. Jesus Christ is the last king, and we will be His bridegroom.

APPLICATION:

"David begins and ends with the glory of God; do we?" The psalmist ends where he began, giving God the glory. As informative as the psalm is concerning man, man is not the point. The point is always (I removed a word here) God. Friend, would you have it any other way? In the midst of any discussion that is biblical, let us understand that the current is always carrying us back to Him.

Where is man headed? There are only two eternal destinies awaiting all mankind. He will either go to a place of eternal destruction and separation from the enjoyment of God's presence or he will go to a place of eternal enjoyment in the presence of God.

In a very real sense those of you who hear these words have a choice. Either way you will glorify God, but today He invites you to make a choice of where you will spend your eternal existence. Today, what will you choose?