

What Is Man? Psalms 008 Verses 3-9

To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.

Ps 8:1 ¶ "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

We have already preached to you about the excellent name of the Lord from verse one, and Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings in verse 2. Now we wish to embark upon the rest of the chapter, in answer to the question "What is man?

Ps 8:3 ¶ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

First, we are reminded of who the creator, and the owner, of heaven and earth is. The psalmist says, "**When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;**" Thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, indicates the ease with which God, through Christ his Son, created all things. Work of thy fingers is language that men can easily understand and indicates the ease with which God created. Ordained here means **to set up**. Simply saying; God has created and placed all things in their proper place.

Next, Jesus reminds us that the Old testament and the Psalms are a testimony of Him in: **Lu 24:44 "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."** Wherefore, as we read the Old Testament scriptures, we should always be searching to see Christ.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" The psalmist reminds us that God created man in his own image and gave him one commandment to obey. Man disobeyed God and fell into the depravity of sin. The psalmist asks God; why do you even consider man after such insurrection and disobedience? We are told that God cast forth fallen man from the Garden. Fallen man began to procreate more fallen men. Thus, the psalmist question: why even consider these fallen creatures? Why would you still visit man and have compassion on him? We know God visits fallen mankind as we are told here "**that thou visitest him.**"

We can find the answer to this question by going to: **2Ti 1:9-10; 9 "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"** and also seen in: **Tit 1:2; 1 ¶ "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; 3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;"** We understand from these scriptures; that before God created the earth and heavens and made man: God the Father made a covenant with God the Son to save all of God's people from their fallen state. Remember, God made man in his own image for the purpose of having people to worship him, here on earth, and in eternity, for which we shout and proclaim, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

Ps 8:5-8; 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas." In the creation of man in the beginning, the creature man was made a little lower than the angels. The angels were created before the earth and heavens, and they were made so that they could be in the very presence of God and not die. Whereas the creature man is made of the dust of the earth and cannot look upon the face of God and live, as seen when Moses requested to see God in: **Ex 33:20 "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."**

Now as we consider these verses four and five, we begin to see the prophetic picture of our Saviour appearing. God, knowing that he would rescue his fallen people, had already, in eternity past, made a covenant with His Son to bring this plan of salvation to fruition in the lives of fallen man, in the age of salvation by Grace. To do that; it was necessary that Jesus come to earth as a man, Why? Because by man sin entered the world, and by man it must be taken away, as seen in: **Ro 5:12-21; 12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."** We see from this text that it was God's purpose to save many, many being all his chosen people, through Jesus Christ.

We also know this is a prophesy of the first coming of Jesus because of the scripture in: **Heb 2:7; 1 ¶ "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? 5 ¶ For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. 6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him."** As we consider these scriptures, we see that Jesus was destined to come from heaven (in a prepared, sinless, body) to earth, to pay the debt that fallen man could not pay.

Remember, as we consider this text from Hebrews, man in creation was given dominion over all the created things of earth. However, in the fall in sin, man lost this dominion, by listening to Satan they yielded their dominion over all things to him. When, Christ died upon the cross, was buried in the grave, and arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave, he regained the dominion lost by fallen man. This is manifest on earth each time a child of God is born again.

Heb 2:8 "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." This is speaking of the regained dominion, which will not be fully manifested until the end of time. When Christ comes the second time, to take all of God's children to the eternal heaven, Christ will exercise his complete power and authority over all things. How do we know this? Do you remember when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness after his forty days of fasting? What was one of the things that the devil tempted Jesus with? Dominion of the world, seen in: **Mt 4:8-9; 8 "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."** If Satan did not have dominion on earth, he could not offer to give it to Christ, and Jesus would have rebuked him for trying to claim something that was not his to claim. Therefore, we understand "**But now we see not yet all things put under him.**" And we know all things shall be put under Jesus' authority, when he returns the second time, for scripture tells us in **Ro 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."**

Ps 8:5 "and hast crowned him with glory and honour." How is it that fallen man is crowned with glory and honor? We see this in: **Ro 2:10; 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.** This is the result of the new birth. How? Just as Christ has been crowned with glory and honor, in fulfilling God's purpose in saving the children of God and is now seated on the throne of God in heaven; fallen man, is raised to new heights in the new birth. Now that Christ is dwelling in your body, in the Holy Spirit presence, you have received the glory that God has chosen to redeem you from your sins. You now have the honor of bearing the name of being a child of God. You have been raised from the lowly state of fallen mankind to the position of seed royal. Did you do this on your own volition? No. You were chosen, because your name was in the covenant between God and Christ before the world began.

Jesus has already received glory and honor in his ascension back to the eternal heaven where he is seated on the throne of God in glory and majesty. Jesus will receive glory and honour when he comes the second time, and in eternity, as seen in: **Re 5:11-13; 11 "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."** This text is very plain that all creation will proclaim the glory of Christ in the end of time, as seen here.

Just as Christ has not yet seen all things put under him: we shall not see ourselves fully crowned with glory and honor until the second return of Christ. Then it will be completely manifested in our eternal life, in resurrected, sinless, immortal, incorruptible, bodies, made to be like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ. When Christ returns, we will be raised from the dead, or if alive we will be changed, and we will arise to meet Christ in the air. Jesus will take us to the eternal place of abode, which he has gone to prepare for us, and there we shall be crowned with glory and honor forever.

Wherefore, it is easy to see why the saved people of God would ask the question of God, "**What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?**" Because in the new birth we begin to understand what sinful and lost creatures we are without Christ in us. We being lost in sin, God has no reason to look at us and say there is one that is good, we will save them. The truth is: it is only because God had a plan of salvation before the world began, that any person on earth has ever been saved. When we consider the testimony of scripture against us in **Ro 3:10-18; 10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes."** We also see why all, that are saved by God's marvelous grace from eternal death, proclaim what is seen in the last verse of this Psalm, **Ps 8:9 "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"** Hallelujah! Amen!