

MEASURE OF A MAN

Thursday, February 1

Reading: Psalm 8

Psalm 8:3 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.*

The universe is beyond our comprehension. Our solar system is in the Milky Way galaxy which scientists believe is 100,000 light-years across and contains over 200 billion stars. And it is only one of many galaxies that make up the universe. When we look into the night sky and see the wonder of God's creation it is easy to ask the question, "Who am I?"

This is the question David asks in Psalm 8. He begins by considering the majesty of God. The opening words are "Yahweh (or Jehovah), our Adonai." Whenever our English translations print LORD in all capital letters it is translating the name God revealed to Moses - Yahweh = I AM. The second "Lord" is only capitalized and translates the Hebrew word Adonai which means "master" or "king." David stands in awe of the majesty and glory of His God and King.

Next David stands amazed at how God works. He does not need a mighty army to silence His enemies. He uses the weakness and innocent praise of children to defeat His foes. Jesus would quote this verse to the religious leaders when they demanded that the children stop praising Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 21:15-16).

Now David gets to the heart of his astonishment. When he considers the majesty of God and the vastness and beauty of His creation he is amazed that God cares for him. He is a speck in the immeasurable universe, yet he is on God's mind.

We are precious to God. Mankind is the pinnacle of God's creation. He created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). He gave humanity dominion over creation (Genesis 1:28). However that dominion was lost and the image of God was marred by sin.

In the New Testament, the book of Hebrews quotes Psalm 8:4-6 and applies it to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? 7 You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor 8 and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Jesus died! That is how much you are worth. Through Jesus, what was lost because of sin can be restored. The picture of man in Psalm 8 was perfectly fulfilled by Christ. And we can share in His victory through faith in Him. "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name!"