

SERMON: A WORSHIPPER'S QUESTION

Psalm 8:1-9

(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 mightiest still the enemy and the avenger. (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 are 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!

Introduction

The psalmist, many believe David himself, looked at the night time sky with amazement and wonder. Then he became humbly perplexed. With the massiveness of the universe why would God even care about us humans? Especially, since we have been so disobedient. He asked one of the questions of the ages: What is man? What are we humans really like? What makes us behave as we do? What make us different?

The answers vary. The biologist would describe us humans as a physical being with blood, bones, and muscles with a digestive apparatus that grinds food, adds chemicals, and transmits energy. Sigmund Freud defined us as complete with an id, ego, and superego. Charles Darwin said we are the mere product of millions of years of evolution through natural selection. There are many, many more answers to this perplexing question. Some are partially true and incomplete while others are totally false- totally false.

The most effective and comprehensive resources for the answer to this perennial question about humankind is the truth of God's Holy Word, the Bible. It tells us what we were meant to be, what we are now, and how to be what we were meant to be. So, let's see what the Bible says about us.

Exposition

- 1. We Are The Crown And Climax Of Creation.**
- 2. We Are The Guardians Of Creation.**
- 3. We Are Designed To Have A Personal Relationship With The Creator.**
- 4. We Are Fallen Creatures And Need A Loving Savior.
(Because Of The Fall We Are A Bundle Of Contradictions.)**
- 5. We Are The Only Object Of His Redemptive Plan.
(There Is No Plan To Save The Fallen Angels.)**

Closing Thoughts

David looked at the sky and stood in awe of God's creative work. He did not have the benefit of the Hubble telescope nor the James Webb telescope. He did not have the benefit of the concept of light years. He did not know that there are billions upon billions of galaxies each with billion upon billion of stars. He did not know that the light from the nearest star, other than the sun, takes seventy-eight years to get here. Yet he could appreciate the magnificence of God's handiwork. How much more should we, with all of our technological advancements, see the greatness of the Creator of this unfathomable universe? Now they are saying it is not a universe, but rather a "meta-verse." Our knowledge of astrophysics and astronomy should enhance our belief in a Creator – not diminish it or destroy it. A watch had to have a watchmaker. A universe had to have a universe maker.

This awesome universe maker cared enough about each of us to send His Son to die for us on the cruel cross of Calvary. Here are two of the greatest mysteries of all times: creation and redemption. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

End Notes

1. This psalm is an awesome song of praise putting in a nut shell the first two chapters of Genesis. What stands out to me now is Genesis 2:7 where it says man became a living soul. The Hebrew word for "living" is related strongly to the word "speak." So, it could be translated as "man became a speaking spirit." Please stay with me, I'm going somewhere with this thought. Theologically, human life is closely related to our ability to speak. We have thousands of words in each of our vocabularies. Not only do we speak words, but we add pitch and rhythm to some of our words and make music. The "note

singers” were right on point when they called their style of music “sacred harp.” They called the human voice the sacred harp because it was the only musical instrument made by God and the only one that could make words. Steinway concert grand pianos and Stradivarius violins were made by human hands and cannot make words to give God praise. Man-made instruments accompany the singers who make the words. (Instrumentalist, please don’t get mad at me. I used to be an instrumentalist. I know there are instrumental solos works, like preludes, postludes, sonatas, etudes, and toccatas and orchestral works like symphonies.)

Moreover, the note singers would challenge each other to live what they sang about with these words: “Always use your sacred harp in a sacred manner. Never use your sacred harp in a sinful manner. Your life and your singing should be in perfect harmony.” Please check out Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16.

Words matter! So, let’s use our words to continue to praise God and to continue to encourage and to continue to uplift each other.

2. The phrase “son of man” is a humble self-designation. Jesus used it often. It is the first person singular. It is equivalent to the English phrase, “yours truly.” An example: “The First Baptist Church will be in revival next week and yours truly will be the guest preacher.” So, in verse four when the psalmist used the phrase, he is saying that God visited him personally. Think about it. We can have a personal relationship with the God that created this constantly expanding universe.

3. The psalmist ended this psalm where he began-with a shout of praise in verse nine. The ancient Hebrews sang the psalms. Since they had no musical notation system, the melodies are lost. Some scholars speculate that the final verse was sung with more intensity and maybe at a higher octave than the preceding parts of the psalm. This is theological speculation, but I like the idea of singing the last verse *fortississimo* and all the voices in their upper registers. Sometimes you got to give it all you got for the Lord. Can’t I get at least one amen.

Related Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-31

Genesis 2:2-25

**Copyright © 2023 By James C. Ward
All Rights Reserved**