

THE PSALMS IN HUMAN LIFE

PART 2 (b)

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PSALM 8 verses 3 to 8

During last weeks study we considered 'The Person and Presence of God'. The main theme of the study was creation and our relationship with God as the Creator. In this study new are going to look at man's '**Place and Position**' in relation to creation. *Psalm 8* is a statement of the original **place and position** man occupied in creation.

As this *Psalm* is studied we are left in no doubt about man's original and historical position in creation. This *Psalm* is a poem that conveys to us what the true position of man is, as it is seen in Christ. There are certain things I would like us to consider that have come to light as I have studied the verses of this *Psalm*. They are

1. THE POSITION MAN HELD

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 man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*

5 *You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour*

6 *You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:*

7 *all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,*

8 *the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

The picture formed in my mind, is of David standing beneath the starry sky looking upwards, and seeing the splendour, beauty and magnitude of the heavens, and then he has amazing thoughts, which are generated as a result of his consideration of the heavens. "*What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*"

He then begins to unfold, as he sees it, the **place and position** of man in creation. His mind then goes back to the original **place and position** man held in the created order of things, and emphasizes the authority man was given. It is in fact a re-emphasis and a confirmation of the statement in **Genesis 1 vs 26 to 28** where we read

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created

him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

In giving some thought to **The Psalms in Human Life**, I think this first point we are referring to illustrates quite definitely that God never intended man to become less than what He had originally appointed him to be.

The **place and position** man occupied was unique, for it was not given to any other creature to have dominion. Man was made to have dominance over the works of God's hands. God never intended man to be subject to any other authority only His.

David, in this *Psalms*, sets the record straight by defining the role and function of man in the original order of things. Let us now see what God had intended, and how it went wrong. In doing so, I need to state that nothing has ever gone wrong from God's side, the responsibility for man not occupying the place and position decided by God when he was created, was because Adam decided to listen to another voice, and allowed that voice to influence his action. We need therefore to consider.

2. THE PLACE AND POSITION MAN FORFEITED

When we read **Psalm 8** we glean from the verses what a unique place humanity was to have held in creation. The tragedy is that humanity is not occupying this position any longer. It was forfeited by the thoughtless action of Adam, who deprived humanity of their God given heritage.

It is sad to see so many people in this world under the control and influence of so many things that cannot even speak, such as, alcohol, ecstasy, cocaine, the stars and planets. They wield a dominating influence over the individual, who then finds it difficult to overcome them.

Things began to go wrong for humanity as soon as his dominion right had been surrendered. Let me ask a simple question here. "What is the first thing a person tries to do when they have done wrong?" The answer is this. An attempt is made to hide it, cover up the mistake, not to let anyone see what you have done. Deceit and deception goes right back to the time when Adam gave up the right to occupy the **place and position** given to him by God.

To illustrate this point let us see what it says in **Genesis 4 vs 8 to 10**

8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't

know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

Joshua 7 vs 16 to 23

16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was taken.

17 The clans of Judah came forward, and he took the Zerahites. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was taken.

18 Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me

what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

20 Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done:

21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are

hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD.

It is sad to see how far down the scale man has descended, particularly in the light of what is being stated in **Psalm 8**. However, what we need to see, as we reflect on this song of David, is the positive aspect of it in human life, because as we look at it, we only view it from our side and perspective of things. David, I believe, looks beyond the present and sees the true place and position of man. This is where the prophetic element of the *Psalm* begins to break through, for it is a theme taken up in the N.T. where we read in **Hebrews 2 verses 5 to 9**

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

6 But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour

8 and put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

The emphasis is “*But we see Jesus*” because it is only in Jesus that the true **place and position** of man can be realised. David is therefore conveying to us the true **place and position** we should be occupying on this earth, which is in actual fact a prophetic statement. Let us look here at

3. THE PLACE AND POSITION OF MAN RESTORED IN CHRIST

The privileges given to man and vested in him by God, which as we have seen in this study were forfeited because of Adam, are only restored to man as he is found in Christ.

For man to be restored to the position he surrendered necessitates a miracle, the miracle of the new birth. I have to say that without the miracle of the new birth humanity is incapable of attaining the dominion expressed in this *Psalm*. In applying this *Psalm* to human life it will be good for us here to consider here the parable of the prodigal son, because we will see a parallel between Him and ourselves.

The parable as told by Jesus can be read in **Luke 15 verses 11 to 32**.

It tells of a son who wanted to conduct his life independently of his father. The result was that he forfeited the **place and position** he had. Eventually, by his own admission he realised the mistake he had made, retraced his steps, acknowledged his sin, returned to the place it all began to go wrong and there he repented. His father was gracious enough to forgive him and then reinstate him to the **place and position** he had previously held, which was that of a son.

There is no doubt about the fact, that if humanity is to find itself as David saw it in ***Psalm 8***, then changes in the status of man will have to take place, because as we have read, at this present time we do not see all things put under our feet. What we do see is Jesus crowned with glory and honour, and He is the only one that is truly representative of man as he should be.

There can be no question that God had intended man to be a dominion creature, and that all other creatures should have been subject to his authority.

Only Jesus shows us this perfect aspect of mans' dominion, for there was nothing, which had dominion over Him, it was always the reverse. The elements and nature were subject to Him, so was sin, satan, demons, sickness and disease. The dominion Jesus had, He demonstrated as a man. By doing what He did, we see that He is the forerunner, the path cutter, the one who has made it possible for mankind to be restored and reinstated to son-ship, and given the rights to the heritage surrendered so long ago.

This *Psalm* reveals the unique authority God vested in Humanity when He made him, which will only be restored to man as he is in Christ.