Psalm 8 v 4

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

The Psalmist begins to describe the authority God invested in man and the extent of that authority. It is quite clear that the Psalmist is in a contemplative mood when writing this Psalm. He sees man as being the handiwork of God.

In verse 3 he says, *"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained".*

The position that God occupies is stated and the place He holds in the universe is declared. No one occupies the position and place God has, for He is exalted above all.

The amazing truth is, that God who is the creator and sustainer of the universes, cares about man. Verse 2 say, *"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"*

Even though God is Lord over all the universe God still has time for mankind, for children and adults.

It is amazing that God has us in His thoughts, God is never too busy to look after His creation, whether it is the external creation of the heavens or the creation of man on earth, God is ever mindful of man. What a wonderful thought this is, it is quite humbling to think that the Lord has time for you and me.

I want to speak about the 4th verse of this Psalm where we read "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Consideration will be given to certain things in relation to God and man. Let us observe that.

1. Man is a Created Being.

There is no truth in the theory of evolution, I know that it is taught as truth by those who reject the Genesis account of creation, Christians believe that the creation of the universe, the earth, and mankind is accredited soley to God, to God

alone. Christian believers cannot on any account subscribe to the theory of evolution.

It was the choice of God to make man, Genesis 1 v 26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crept upon the earth"
Man was created to have dominion, the extent of that dominion is stated in this 26th verse, When man was created he was a complete being, there were no imperfection in him, God never creates anything imperfect, all that God created had no blemishes and no faults.

It is noticeable from the verse 26, that man was made in the image of God, therefore he could not be created imperfect because there is no imperfection in God, it is therefore impossible for God to create a substandard being.

Man was the climax of Gods creation, viewing what he had created, and the authority he had given man, verse Genesis 1 v 31 says, *And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

All of creation prior to man, was created by the word of God, God said and it came into existence, it became visible. When it came to the creation of man, it was different, because God fashioned man out of the dust of the ground, and then personally breathed into him and he became a living soul. Man is the only being God breathed into and made him pulse with life.

The Apostle Paul writing to the Colossians in which he places the preeminence of the Lord Jesus in a way no one else has been able to portray Him, says in chapter 1 v 15 to 18 *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the*

firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence". Jesus was directly involved in the creation of man.

The whole of creation that God brought into existence expressed the Glory of his majesty, and the exceeding greatness of his power.
A problem arose when Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, a fruit the Lord had told them not to eat, by disobeying God they sinned, and so their time of innocence was over, they had allowed human nature to become contaminated by sin and had therefore inherited the knowledge of right from wrong.

Satan had persuaded Eve eat of the tree of knowledge by deception and lies, she then gave some to Adam, Satan had bypassed the creative order of God by going to Eve and not Adam. From this time on the decline of man started, their son killed his brother and by Genesis 6 the decline of Man was evident because verse 5 we read *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually".*

2. Man became a Corrupt Being.

The nature of man was altered immediately sin entered, it changed the life he was meant to live, which was to be a life pleading to God, into a life that rebelled against the ways of God. From being holy, man became sinful and unrighteous, his action brought separation from God.

How awful the sinful condition of man became, Genesis 6 reveals the depth to which he had fallen, from the height of holiness to the depth of sinfulness. Verse 6 says *"And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart".*

It is clear from verse 5 that the condition of man resulted in a devastating reaction from God, we know that once Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord took immediate action that resulted in them being banished from the garden of Eden. This corruption of mans nature was passed on from one generation to the next, so all after Adam was born with a sinful nature.

Man has a conscience, which means he knows right from wrong, it does not however stop him committing acts of sin, which is offensive to God. This corruption resulted in the Genesis flood. There was one man who walked with God and found favour with God, Genesis 6 v 8 says *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD".* Noah knew that.

3. Man is a Condemned Being.

Noah followed the instruction of the Lord and built an ark in which he saved his family. Because of the deteriorating condition of mankind the Lord decided to destroy humanity except Noah and his family. The way God chose was to send rain and flood the earth, during this time the fountains of the earth were upturned.

Humanity fell into condemnation because God could no longer look upon a creation created in beauty and perfection. Sin had entered and contaminated humanity to the extent that every way of God was corrupted and it repented God that he had ever made man.

It took Noah 120 years to build the ark in which to house those nominated by the Lord, the people had many years in which to repent but rejected and ultimately paid the price as they drowned in the flood.

The Apostle Paul refers to the state of man when writing to the Romans, he writes in chapter 1 v 18 *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.* The Apostle does not hold back on stating that the wrath of God cannot be withheld from those who commit acts of unrighteousness.

Romans 6 v 23 *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".* The question is, is there any hope for man seeing he is corrupt and condemned? The answer is yes, so let us note that.

4. Man can be a Changed Being.

2 Corinthians 5 v 17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"*

This text is conveying to us a remarkable truth, which those who have accepted Christ by faith know. Being in Christ changes the way we live, behave, talk and conduct our lives.

The Apostle Peter says in 1Peter 2 v 1 *"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings*". The things done prior to salvation, that are works of righteousness are to be done away with altogether. Our own righteousness, which was as filthy rags, this self righteousness is to be laid on one side, and replaced with the righteousness of Christ.

Only the righteousness of Christ is the righteousness accepted as being acceptable to God. Matthew 5 v 20 Jesus says, *"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven"*

Nothing can be clearer than what this verse says about the righteousness that qualifies us for heaven, we be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Jesus lived right, talked right, all His action were right, He never made a wrong decision. His righteousness is the righteousness that affects our action so the we live righteously.