
Words of Truth

What Is Man, That Thou Art Mindful Of Him?

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The title of this article and the subject of our study come from multiple Scriptures. Here are some of which we should consider in our study: *“What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him... What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him... Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him... For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. 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? 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: 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”* (Job 7:17, Psalms 8:4, Psalms 144:3, and Hebrews 2:5-8).

Isn't this a good question to consider? What are we that God has done so much for us? To really ask the question shows a level of humility. To really understand the question shows the realization of how great God is (Deuteronomy 10:17, Psalms 40:5, Psalms 135:5, Isaiah 45:21, and Romans 11:33-36) and how lowly we are (Psalms 103:13-16 and Ecclesiastes 3:20).

At the same time, asking this question also generates the opportunity of really seeking some level of answers. Sure, we may not fully comprehend God's mindset towards us because His thinking is above our own (Isaiah 55:7-9). However, starting with the contexts of the verses quoted above and then going further from there, we can learn some of God's thoughts toward us. In this way, we can reach for some Scriptural answers to the question of this study. Whether or not our reach finds the answer is something we will find out.

Starting With The Contexts

In the context of Job 7:17, Job is complaining (Job 6:1-7:21). It is difficult to grant full weight to Job's words. Sure, they are profitable for study (II Timothy 3:15-17). However, much of what Job and his friends said has to be understood in light of these things: *“So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes... Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job... Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge”* (Job 32:1, Job 32:3, and Job 38:1-2)? Thus, we should move on to contexts that will likely bear out more profitable information.

The eighth Psalm is beautiful. It is a Psalm that praises God for His excellence (Psalms 8:1-9). The Psalmist, in that context, posed his question while considering the work of God.

Outside of stating man's dominion over the earth and level of existence under the angels (Psalms 8:5-8), no clear answer really exists within that Psalm.

Thus, we then turn to the one hundred and forty-fourth Psalm. When you read the whole Psalm (Psalms 144:1-15) you find many great and wonderful truths. You find that God enabled and defended His Old Testament warriors (Psalms 144:1-2). You find that man is like to vanity (Psalms 144:4). You find that God was asked to come down from Heaven and deliver the Psalmist out of the hand of strange children as the Psalmist praised God for His deliverance (Psalms 144:5-11). The Psalmist asked God for deliverance for the future of His people (Psalms 144:12-14). In conclusion, we read: *"Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord"* (Psalms 144:15). All of that being said in a beautiful Psalm, there still is no clear answer to the question given.

Finally, we can turn to look at the second chapter of Hebrews. The most we can clearly draw from Hebrews 1:1-4:16 is that God wants us to be saved. We can see His work in creating all things, putting the order of authority in place, preparing a Savior, etc. Yet, even in all of those Scriptures there is no verse that directly states, "God is mindful of man because..." You can study these chapters in Hebrews and gain great appreciation for our Heavenly Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Yet, we are still left with the question. We have reached in our study, but the answer is yet to be within our reach. Thus, we shall reach to other contexts and Scriptures.

Extending Our Reach To Other Scriptures

In the sight of God we can find that man is His Creation, His people (Psalms 100:3). Spiritually speaking, we [faithful Christians] are His workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). For faithful Christians, we know that God is our Heavenly Father (II Corinthians 6:14-18 and I John 3:1-2). As members of the body of Christ, we are the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33). Throughout the Scriptures we see that God's relationship with His people is likened unto a marriage (Isaiah 54:5, Isaiah 62:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20, and Romans 7:4).

God's love and care for man also extends beyond those whom choose to be His people (Matthew 5:45, John 3:16, and I Timothy 1:15). While the relationship is different, God is mindful of all men. He wants all men to be saved (Matthew 28:18-20, I Timothy 2:1-4, Titus 2:11-14, and II Peter 3:9-10). All of these things, and more, are clearly stated in the Scriptures. The "why He is mindful of us" however, it is still left up in the air. Why is that?

Why?

Surely, we can see God created us, sustains us, seeks to save us, etc. The "why" is not explicitly stated as far as my studies have revealed. Maybe you will have a clearer answer than I have reached. We know He cares (I Peter 5:7). The answer to why may be as simple as, because us wants to (Psalms 115:3).

Conclusion

I may not be able to explain God's reasoning on this question. One thing I can do and you should too, is be thankful for His being mindful of us (Psalms 136:1-26).