

Thoughts for the week 3 – Psalm 8:-

This Psalm asks, and gives the beginning of an answer to, the all important question – “ **What is man . . .?**”

Verses 1 –2:- The Psalmist (traditionally King David) begins where we must begin, with the majesty and glory of the Lord God. For examples of this see Isaiah chapter 6, verses 1 – 5 and Revelation chapter 4, verses 1 – 11. The power and might of the Lord God are such that they can be expressed in the innocent worship of children. Against this kind of faith and trust – that of a beloved child to its caring father, see Matthew chapter 18, verses 1 – 5 and 10 – 11, and with the protection of the angelic host, the ‘*avenger*’ - Satan – has no power.

Verses 3 – 4:- Modern man, with the knowledge of the vastness of space, seems to be afraid to ask the question - “*What is man . . .?*”. The word here is ‘frail man’, so insignificant in contrast with the stars that he is truly just the “*son of man . . .*” - the ‘son of Adam’.

Verses 5 – 8:- The place of man is “*a little less than divine . . .*”. Three things designate man’s position; his relation to divinity, his dignity (glory and honour) and his dominion – verses 7 – 8, see Genesis chapter 1. Remember that although mankind has been given ‘dominion’ over beasts he is also “*placed in the garden to till it and keep it*” (Genesis chapter 2, verse 15). Along with ‘dominion’ we also have a responsibility for creation’s welfare!

Verse 9:- This refrain reminds mankind of the majesty of God. We should not become absorbed in thoughts of personal grandeur. Man has dignity but God alone is majestic!

Along side this Psalm read Hebrews chapter 2, verse 5 onwards. Give thanks that our Lord Jesus Christ, enthroned in glory reveals the full dignity and majesty of Man.

Terry Brighton 21 / 8 / 2025