

Hebrews 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

Quoting Psalm 8:4, the author uses 'diemartusato' (testified) to introduce Scripture as authoritative divine witness. The rhetorical question 'What is man?' highlights humanity's apparent insignificance, setting up the contrast with God's gracious exaltation of humanity. Reformed anthropology acknowledges both human depravity and dignity - made in God's image yet fallen, redeemed only by grace.

Historical Context

Psalm 8 originally celebrated humanity's creation dignity. The Hebrews author applies it christologically to show how Christ, as the true human, fulfills God's intention for humanity. This dual application (to humanity generally and Christ specifically) was common in apostolic exegesis.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile your insignificance before God with your significance as His image-bearer?
2. Why does God's attention to humanity evoke wonder rather than presumption?

Interlinear Text

διεμαρτύρατο	δέ	πού	τις	λέγων,	Τί	ἐστιν
testified	But	in a certain place	one	saying	What	is
G1263	G1161	G4225	G5100	G3004	G5101	G2076
ἀνθρώπου	ὅτι	μιμνήσκη	αὐτόν	ἢ	υἱὸς	ἀνθρώπου
man	that	thou art mindful	him	or	the son	man
G444	G3754	G3403	G846	G2228	G5207	G444
ὅτι	ἐπισκέπτη	αὐτόν				
that	thou visitest	him				
G3754	G1980	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:3 (Parallel theme): LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Isaiah 51:12 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

Job 15:14 (Parallel theme): What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Job 25:6 (Parallel theme): How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?