

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 ἔστιν
testified But in a certain place one saying What is
G1263 G1161 G4225 G5100 G3004 G5101 G2076

ἀνθρώπου ὅτι μιμνήσκῃ αὐτόν ἢ νιὸς ἀνθρώπου
man that thou art mindful him or the son man
G444 G3754 G3403 G846 G2228 G5207 G444

ὅτι ἐπισκέπτῃ 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?