

# Psalm 144:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

## Analysis

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**Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him?** (וְהַיְה֙ אָדָם תִּعְדֹּעַ) — Mah-adam (what is man/humanity?) echoes Psalm 8:4 but with different emphasis. Vattededa'ehu (that you know him) uses yada (intimate, covenantal knowing), not mere awareness. **Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him?** (בֶּן-עֵשׂוֹת תַּחַשֵּׁבְהוּ) — enosh emphasizes human frailty and mortality.

David marvels at the absurdity: the infinite, self-sufficient Creator condescends to 'make account' of mortal, frail humanity. This isn't philosophical musing but worshipful wonder. God doesn't need humanity, yet chooses covenant relationship. Hebrews 2:6-9 quotes Psalm 8:4-6, seeing ultimate fulfillment in Christ's incarnation—God made flesh, the Son of Man who tasted death for everyone.

## Historical Context

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This question gained urgency throughout Israel's history. Why would Yahweh choose Abraham's descendants among all nations? Why deliver slaves from Egypt? Why establish David's dynasty? The answer: sovereign, electing love (Deuteronomy 7:7-8). The incarnation provides the ultimate answer: God takes knowledge of humanity by becoming human (John 1:14, Philippians 2:6-8).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does contemplating human smallness and divine condescension produce both humility and security in God's love?
2. What does it mean that God 'knows' humanity in the covenant sense (intimate relationship) rather than merely being aware we exist?
3. How does Christ as the ultimate 'Son of Man' fulfill God's plan to exalt weak humanity to glory (Hebrews 2:9-10)?

## Interlinear Text

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הָאָדָם	מִהִיא	בְּנֵי	הָאָדָם	מִהִיא	בְּנֵי
LORD	H4100	what is man	that thou takest knowledge	of him! or the son	
H3068		H120		H3045	H1121
אַתָּה	מִתְמַשְׁבָּחָה	אַתָּה	מִתְמַשְׁבָּחָה		
H376	that thou makest account	H2803			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 8:4** (Parallel theme): What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

**Job 7:17** (Parallel theme): What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

**Hebrews 2:6** (Parallel theme): 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?

**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?