

Psalm 33:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

Analysis

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. David continues theme of divine omniscience (v. 13), emphasizing that God's comprehensive vision extends from His dwelling place to all earth's inhabitants. This establishes God's universal sovereignty and knowledge.

From the place of his habitation (Hebrew makon shivto—fixed place of dwelling) identifies God's throne as established location from which He governs. Not suggesting God is limited to location (He is omnipresent) but emphasizing His kingship has established seat. Heaven is God's throne, earth His footstool (Isaiah 66:1). From this position of authority, God exercises dominion over all creation.

He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth (Hebrew shagach—look, see, regard; yashab—dwell, inhabit) intensifies verse 13. Not only sons of men generally but specifically all inhabitants—those dwelling on earth. This includes every tribe, nation, people, tongue. No remote corner escapes His gaze; no isolated individual is overlooked. From Himalayan peaks to ocean depths, from Amazon tribes to metropolitan cities, God sees and knows all who inhabit earth.

This universal vision has implications for both judgment and mercy. For judgment: no wickedness is hidden; no injustice goes unnoticed; all evil will be called to account. God's comprehensive knowledge ensures righteous judgment—no one can claim their circumstances weren't known or their crimes went unseen. For mercy: God knows every suffering person's need; hears every prayer whispered in remote

place; sees every tear of oppressed. His global vision means His compassion can reach anyone anywhere.

Reformed missions theology finds motivation here. If God looks upon all earth's inhabitants, His saving purposes extend potentially to all. Great Commission sends gospel to every creature because God's redemptive gaze encompasses all nations. Revelation's innumerable multitude from every tribe confirms God's particular election spans earth's inhabitants.

Historical Context

God looking upon all earth's inhabitants recalls His covenant with Noah after flood —never again to destroy all inhabitants of earth (Genesis 9:11). Later covenants (Abraham, David) progressively revealed God's intentions include blessing for all nations. Abraham's seed would bless all families of earth (Genesis 12:3, fulfilled in Christ).

Prophets envisioned day when knowledge of LORD would cover earth as waters cover sea (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14). This anticipated gospel going to all nations. Jesus commanded disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Paul declared God now commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). God's looking upon all earth's inhabitants finds culmination in gospel reaching every tongue, tribe, nation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God looking upon all earth's inhabitants from His established throne affect your view of His sovereignty?
2. What comfort comes from knowing no place is too remote, no person too insignificant to escape God's notice?
3. How does God's universal vision motivate both personal holiness (He sees you) and missionary zeal (He sees them)?
4. In what ways does God's comprehensive knowledge ensure both perfect justice and perfect mercy?
5. How should recognizing that God sees all earth's inhabitants shape your prayers for unreached peoples?

Interlinear Text

מִמֶּנּוּ אֶל הַשָּׁבֵךְ יְשַׁבֵּן
From the place of his habitation he looketh
H4349 H3427 H7688 H413 H3605 H3427

בָּאָרֶץ
of the earth
H776

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:39 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)