

Psalms 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

Analysis

This verse describes humanity's divine mandate: dominion over creation. "Madest him to have dominion" (תִּמְשִׁילָהוּ/tamshilehu) means cause to rule, govern, exercise authority. "The works of thy hands" (מַעֲשֵׂי יְדֵיךְ/ma'asei yadekha) emphasizes creation as God's craftsmanship. "Put all things under his feet" (שַׁתָּה תַּחַת-רָגְלָיו/shattah tachat-raglav) uses ancient Near Eastern imagery of conquered kings under victor's feet—humanity as God's vice-regent. This echoes Genesis 1:26-28's creation mandate. Hebrews 2:6-9 quotes Psalm 8, noting we don't yet see all things subjected to humanity due to sin's entrance, but we see Jesus, crowned with glory, fulfilling perfect dominion. Christ is the true Adam, exercising righteous rule humanity lost.

Historical Context

David wrote this psalm contemplating creation's grandeur and humanity's paradoxical position—insignificant compared to cosmic vastness yet crowned with glory and dominion. Ancient Near Eastern kings claimed divine status; biblical anthropology places humanity below God but above creation, responsible stewards not autonomous rulers. The Fall damaged but didn't destroy this mandate (Genesis 9:1-7). Christ's redemption restores proper human dominion under divine authority.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does viewing yourself as God's steward exercising delegated authority change your relationship to creation and its resources?
2. In what ways does Christ fulfill perfect human dominion that Adam lost, and how do believers participate in His restored rule?

Interlinear Text

תַּמְלִיכָה	בְּמַעַשֵּׁיךְ	אֶל יָדֶךָ	כִּל	שְׁפָה
Thou madest him to have dominion	over the works	of thy hands	H3605	thou hast put
H4910	H4639	H3027		H7896
תְּמִימָה	בְּגַלְיוֹן			
H8478	all things under his feet			
	H7272			

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 1:28 (Parallel theme): And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26 (Parallel theme): And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl

of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Hebrews 2:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Ephesians 1:22 (Parallel theme): And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Psalms 110:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Genesis 9:2 (Parallel theme): And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

1 Peter 3:22 (Creation): Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Hebrews 1:2 (Creation): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;