

Eleutheros Newsletter

October 2020

News of Interest

Have you ever felt the urge to present the Gospel to someone but then realized you need training or encouragement?

Check out this soulwinning seminar from Eleutheros Books!

<http://www.eleutherosbooks.com>

Click on "seminars"

Progress is being made on a new book entitled "19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity." Updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Thoughts from the Psalms

[Psalm 8](#)

1 O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens?

David, the second king of Israel, is speaking about how magnificent God is to His people and all who live on this earth. He recognized His power, His holiness, His love, His beauty, and he is not ashamed to declare these things!

As incredible as heaven is, God, its Creator, is more glorious! There is a great need for believers today to take time to ponder God's excellence and proclaim it to a world that desperately needs to hear about it.

2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength of Thine enemies, that Thou mightiest still the enemy and the avenger.

This verse is actually a prophecy that was fulfilled in Matthew 21. In verse 15 of that chapter, after Jesus had entered Jerusalem triumphantly, there were children in the temple area who cried out, *Hosanna to the son of David* as the chief priests and scribes, the religious leaders in Israel, *were sore displeased*.

God's message is wonderfully understandable to children but a stumbling block to those who have rejected Him.

3 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained;

David now considers the great creativity and power of God which is on display every day when we look up to the skies above the earth. Obviously, David was not aware of the great number of galaxies God has created, for telescopes that are capable of viewing the immensity of creation had not yet been invented, but he was amazed at what he could see, and realized that God did not have to work very hard to accomplish such amazing things (he describes creation as *the work of Thy fingers*).

4 What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that Thou visiteth him?

David is amazed that such a powerful God (in fact, the ONLY God) is so caring and personal. Elsewhere in the Psalms David recognized his own sin and unworthiness (see [Psalm 51](#)) and knew that in spite of it God still loved him.

Sin is sin, and it must be confessed; but God is God, and He loves us with an everlasting love (see [Psalm 110:5](#); [103:17](#)).

No doubt David also realized how incredible it was that God, who is so immense, would even be aware of the human race which exists on one small planet in all of His creation, much less actually wants to associate with us!

5 For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.

David recognizes God's sovereignty in making man *a little lower than the angels*. This clearly means that God, in His wisdom, did not give mankind the strength or wisdom that angels possess, but He has given us certain privileges that angels do not possess.

These privileges were given to man in [Genesis 1:26](#): *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 the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet.

While this is true today for man, it is ultimately true for the God-man, Jesus Christ (notice the phrase *and for Him* in [Colossians 1:16](#); see also [Revelation 19:15-16](#))!

7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and all the beasts of the field;

God is the Creator and sustainer of all things ([Colossians 1:17](#)) and can do whatever He wants with what He has created, but He has graciously given man (yes, insignificant, weak, sinful man!) the dominion over the animals in this world.

David recognizes this is a privilege that man does not deserve.

8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Man's privilege is not only given to have dominion over land animals, it is extended also to sea creatures and the birds who fly in the air.

9 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent in Thy name in all the earth!

Of course, man should not abuse God's creation. After all, God is excellent and what He has created is *very good* ([Genesis 1:31](#))!

David praised God in this Psalm for a number of good reasons: His creativity, His power, His sovereignty, His love.

Surely, believers today should express the same praise to God for these things and more!

For God so loved the world, that He have His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life ([John 3:16](#)).

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!

We will continue these thoughts from the Psalms in next month's newsletter.