

"WHAT IS MAN?"

Psalm 8:4 "What is man that Thou art mindful of him ?

INCLUSIVE WORD = Mankind - person - (male & female alike)

Not talking about his **profession**. (doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.) (Or housewife, nurse, beautician, waitress, seamstress).

Not talking about his **lifestyle**. (Liar like Abraham, Drinker like Noah, wicked Ahab, Selfish like Lot, Thief like man on the cross, Murderer like Paul, Denier like Peter, Doubter like Thomas, or a homosexual like the men of Sodom.)

Not talking about his **family setting**. (Father, son, cousin, uncle, in-law)

Gen 1:27 "So God created man in His own image." (perfect in every way)

Man's story is summed up in Three words.

A. Man's Generation. B. Man's Degeneration. C. Man's Regeneration.

1. GOD'S MASTERPIECE AT CREATION-What We Were

- Two Hebrew words - Bara - out of nothing - Ashah - Already in existence.
- God gave him the most beautiful woman in the world.
- God gave him a palatial garden for a home.
- He placed him in the world like a king.
- Made everything to please him.
- Gave him the Sun to labor for him and the moon to lighten his nights.
- Made the elements of nature to be his slaves.
- Grew flowers to scent his pathway.
- Produced fruit to please his taste.
- Created birds to sing for him.
- Made beasts to toil for him and carry him
- Gave him a complex library storage computer for a brain.
- God's gave him perfect eyes, ears, skin, teeth, muscles.
- Man knew nothing of Cancer, Heart trouble, social disease, adultery, murder, theft, or lying.
- Two color TV cameras for eyes that self adjust, record, and store pictures for instant recall.
- Two receiving mechanisms that hear and record every sound exposed to.
- Gave him complicated electrical, telephone, & plumbing systems.
- **Ps. 139:14**, "I will praise Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"

Martin Luther believed that Adam was superior to the animals even in those points where the animals were strong. He wrote, "I am fully convinced that before Adam's sin his eyes were so sharp and clear that they surpassed those of the lynx and eagle. He was stronger than the lion and bears, and he handled them the way we handle puppies." He went on to say, "If we are looking for a philosopher, let us not overlook our first parents while they were still free from sin."

2. DEVIL'S PUPPET AT THE FALL-What We Became

- *Punch & Judy*- Like *Humpty Dumpty*, who fell off the wall.
- **Eph 2:8** "Wherein ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air"
- Lost his position - Rom 5:12
- Resulted in **total depravity**. "None good no not one"
- Whole being corrupted - His spirit darkened.
- Body became diseased and experienced death.
- His will was weakened.
- His conscience was blunted.
- His heart became deceitful.
- His spirit died on the spot.
- He came under the wrath of God.
- He found himself utterly lost and guilty before God.
- Sin became *Universal*, loss of communion with God,
- Condemnation set in, Sorrow entered, Spiritual and eternal death too.

"J. Dwight Pentecost says "the doctrine of depravity has to do, not with man's estimation of man, but with God's estimation of man. We have come somehow to feel that there is so much good in the worst of us that man is not so bad after all. But, the Scriptures do not measure man by man; they measure man by Go. The creature is measured by the Creator and is found wanting."

3. TROPHY OF GRACE AT SALVATION-What He Made Of Us

Eph.2:7 "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace..."

- Largest *Individual Trophy* - **41 ft, 10.36 in. tall**, India, 22 March 2015. The trophy was presented to the winners of a cricket game. The Largest *Team Trophy* (skateboarding)- **22 ft, 6.5 in.** tall, 23 wood bases, 18 cups, 18 in. metal championship cup, 12 skater/star figurines, and 48 columns .
- Man beats that all to pieces.
- God is the only one who can repair the damage. We are placed in Christ.

In the 14th century, Robert Bruce of Scotland was leading his men in a battle to gain their independence from England. Near the end of the conflict, they wanted to capture Bruce and keep him from the Scottish crown, so they put bloodhounds on his trail. When they got close, he remained calm and headed for a nearby stream that flowed in the forest. When he came out on the other side he was in the deep forest. Within minutes, the bloodhounds came to the bank of the stream, but they went no further. The trail had been broken because the stream had carried the scent away. A short time later, the crown of Scotland rested upon the head of Robert Bruce. The only hope for man is the Crimson Flowing Blood Stream of Calvary to carry the scent of his sin away. Apart from that, man stands before God helpless and hopeless. Apart from that, man stands before God deprived, defiled and dead. Apart from that, man stands before God seen, stripped and sentenced.

Someone has said, "Had our greatest need been information, God would have sent us an educator. Had our greatest need been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. Had our greatest need been money, God would have sent us an economist. Had our greatest need been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But, our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior."