



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 29, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Wow! Did you see that supermoon the other night? It was so beautiful. A supermoon is when the moon comes closest to the earth and it is so big and bright. Well, I looked up at that supermoon and I thought, I thought how the Psalmist is right, that the heavens do declare the glory of God. But sometimes when I look up at the sky, I think the Hubble Telescope reveals that there are more stars in the observable universe than there are grains of sand on all of the earth's deserts and beaches. I look up at the sky and I can feel so small, so insignificant, and I wonder, what does it mean for us to be human beings... What are human being? That is the question posed by David, and a Psalm that I wanna look at today, a Psalm in which David... Well, he is in awe of the magnificence of the night sky, and David asks, What are human beings? And you know that that is what are the most important questions facing our culture today, a question that in many ways is dividing our culture. It is a burning question, What are human beings? From an atheist, biologist, Richard Dawkins says that quote, human beings are just throw-aways survival machines. That means that our only purpose is to survive and replicate genes. And so we have Richard Dawkins, along with a lot of others that they were saying that there's really little point to our lives, and this we're seeing the cheapening of human life in our country today, I mean just look at the news.

Today, I'm looking at a Psalm of David, Psalm 8, verses three and four, as David is talking to God. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established. What are human beings that you are mindful of them... Mortal that you care for them. I can imagine here that David is out at night, keeping watch over his flock, he's gazing up at the heavens, which notice that he calls the work of God's fingers. Fingers, that's interesting that he would call the heavens the work of God's fingers. You see, the Bible often times speaks of the hand of God, that the hand of God in His power and sovereignty, but here David is calling the magnificent heavens, he's calling them the work of God's fingers, that is the starry sky is... Well, it's like finger work for God, it's like child's play, to just speak a word and billions of galaxies and worlds are created. And as David ponders the power of wisdom of God in the work of his fingers, well, David has to ask, What are human beings that you're mindful of them mortals, that you care for them. So David is in awe, he is in wonderment that it's not the galaxies and supernova that God loves and cares about that it's human beings.

It's important that we stop here and pay attention to the Hebrew word translated as human beings, it is the Hebrew word, enosh, that's E-N-O-S-H, and enosh means frail, weak, puny. Enosh speaks of human beings, not as God created them, but human beings as we are, fallen, frail in a state of sin, but it is you and me as enosh as weak, frail human beings that God cares about, that he loves. What



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are human beings, enosh, that you're mindful of them. Mortals that you care for them. Now, the Hebrew word translated mortals is benadam. It's a reminder that we are descended from Adam, Adam, meaning of the ground dirt, we are sons and daughters of a sinful dying Adam, but it is mortals benadam who God loves that God cares about. As David looks up at the night sky, he remembers then that the glory of the heavens are nothing compared to the glory of human beings. Of you and me as mortals benadam.

Follow then what the psalmist says in Verses 5 and 6, yet, you have made them enosh benadam. You have made them a little lower than God, the word is Elohim. Yet you have made them a little lower than God. Remember that as our culture argues, what are human beings... You have made them a little lower than God. This takes us back to Genesis, where God says, Let us make human kind in our image according to our likeness, and that's what sets apart you and me from everything else in God's creation, as God created us for relationship with Him, God created us to be counterparts to him, to grow an increasing likeness to him, to love and to be loved. Yet you have made them a little lower than God, then He says, and crowned them with glory and honor.

Our culture today is debating what are human beings. Scripture says that we are a little lower than God, created in His image, crowned with glory and honor. That is the dignity, the glory of what it means for you and me to the human beings. Yes, we are enosh, frail and fallen. We are benadam, born of Adam's fallen sinful race, yet it is you and me that God loves and cares for and crowns us with glory and honor. Think about that is you gaze up at the night sky and wonder in amazement that God has crowned you with a far greater glory than the heavens can ever declare.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.