

What is man?

created
corrupted
redeemed
regenerated
resurrected

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- ² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
- ⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
- ⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
- ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (ESV)

Man is generally used in this study as a synonym for mankind, all human beings (male and female).

Agree or disagree? Man is irredeemable.

What are your reasons for answering the way you did?

Compare the following two passages.

⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:5-8 ESV)

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done." (Genesis 8:20,21 ESV)

If man is redeemable, what is not the reason?

Consider the next passage.

⁷ Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, ⁸ for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, ⁹ that he should live on forever and never see the pit. (Psalm 49:7-9 ESV)

If man is redeemable, what is not the reason?

When the Lord freed Israel from slavery in Egypt, he redeemed the Israelites.

Psalm 130 mentions an even greater redemption that the Lord would accomplish.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. (Psalm 130:7,8 ESV)

What kind of redemption does God provide, and why does he provide it?

Let's read Psalm 8 printed at the beginning of the lesson.

As you read the psalm, whom is the psalm talking about?

Read the following passage.

⁶ It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet."

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:6-9 ESV)

So how does God redeem man?

Man is redeemed from God's judgment against his sin.

For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Romans 3:22-25 ESV)

Who are redeemed?

How are they redeemed?

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.” (Galatians 3:13)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7 ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18,19 ESV)

God became man. That person is Jesus Christ.

Looking at the passages above, why is his becoming man significant?

How do false views of man's creation and corruption affect how one views man's redemption?