



Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet

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Psalm 8:3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers—the moon and the stars You set in place—⁴ what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them?

In recent years, our eyes have been drawn to the heavens by such sights as blood moons, passing asteroids, solar eclipses, and very recently, a rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn (called by some “The Christmas Star”), and, here in the Bay Area, a full rainbow on Christmas morning.

For us city-dwellers, these have been striking sights!

Prophetic Vision

But under the clear Judean sky at night, without the lights of a city, the everyday night sky captured the imagination of David, the shepherd-psalmist. As he reflected on his view, he wrote:

Psalm 8:3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers—the moon and the stars You set in place—⁴ what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that You should care for them?⁵ Yet You made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You gave them charge of everything You made, putting all things under their authority—⁷ the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, ⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. ⁹ O Lord, our Lord, Your majestic name fills the earth!

I imagine David’s wonder at the vision of the night sky made him feel so small—like a speck of dust on the planet. And yet...

Yet David had been illuminated by an even brighter Light—the Holy Scriptures. He knew that the God who made the heavens and the earth and sustained the stars and planets in their orderly courses, also made the human race.

Created to Reign

When everything that is now around us was created and pronounced “good,” then God formed the first man from the earth’s dust (perhaps only a single speck) and pronounced him “very good.” So, we are significant—every one of us.

Not only that, but the Scriptures reveal that God made humans “in His (own) image”—“*male and female He made them.*” In God’s image! Or, as the Holy Spirit described it to David, “*only a little lower than God.*”

And then, Christ “*crowned [us] with glory and honor... [giving us] charge of everything [He] made, putting all things under [our] authority.*”

Whatever might have been the general appropriateness of Psalm 8 to humanity’s place in this present world, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews, who quoted that psalm, clearly saw an “other worldly” reference to an age of transition—moving toward Messiah’s victorious reign. He commented on the psalmist’s words (as I will comment on his, Hebrews 2:8-11):

Hebrews 2:8 “*You gave them authority over all things.*” Now when it says “*all things,*” it means *nothing is left out.* (He wasn’t referring only to “all that was,” but even to all that was to come, for he continued...)

Hebrews 2:8 *But we have not yet seen all things put under their authority.* (This sentence recognizes a process—a lengthy process, spanning many generations.)

Hebrews 2:9 *What we do see is Jesus, (humanity’s Representative) who for a little while was given a position “a little lower than the angels” (He became one of us—God in human form); and because He suffered death for us, He is now “crowned with glory and honor” (through His resurrection and ascension, He has been anointed as King of kings and Lord of lords).*

Receiving the Crown

And, like David himself, whose anointing as king over Israel was followed by an extraordinarily lengthy process of preparation before he actually received the crown, Jesus (on our behalf) suffered humiliation and abandonment before “glory and honor.”

Hebrews 2:9 *Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.*”

Like a king’s cupbearer, whose responsibility it was to affirm quality control of all the king was to eat or drink by himself first tasting the food and drink. If he survived, the food could be served. Just so, Jesus “*tasted death for everyone*” so that we might safely follow Him, for it was His plan to bring us with Him.

Hebrews 2:10 God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that He should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.

¹¹ So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters.

The psalmist prophetically foresaw an out-of-the-ordinary process of testing, of confirmation, which proved to apply to his own rise to the throne of Israel also.

Hebrews' author reflected how the "Son of David" followed a similar trajectory, for our sakes, and from that concluded that the prophetic process applies *also to us*.

This expresses the "now, but not yet" context of our faith journey. We have not seen "all things" put under our authority. We are not in control—as David was not in control, as Jesus was not in control. But it is our destiny, as it was theirs!

Now, the question forced upon us is this: How do we navigate such a journey toward completion?

In the In-Between

What has been revealed to us through Jesus Christ is what we have NOT seen with our natural eyes, yet, by God's grace and the power of His Spirit within us, we embrace by faith.

We must navigate by what we HAVEN'T seen (yet). "*We live by believing and not by seeing*" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Or, We walk by faith, not by sight.

Don't let the things you see obscure your vision of the things you trust, though they are yet invisible.

If you depend on what you see, or what CAN be seen (or what could be seen if it had not been taken from you), then you are not walking by faith, you are not depending on Christ. You're depending instead on what your senses and intellect tell you. Those things may be good and true, but they are not your guideposts for living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Now, listen to me very carefully... while this principle of walking by faith may have more general application to how we conduct ourselves from day to day, that was NOT the apostles' focus. Their emphasis was on the substitutionary death of Jesus, who tasted death for us all.

Reign Through Faith

From their view, all of this life—away from our destined home with the Lord—is a walk of faith—not merely faith in the moment, but faith in the NOT YET SEEN achievement of our Lord Jesus Christ, faith in our YET TO COME coronation as kings and priests with Christ.

David was responsible to live in the character of a king, while he yet had no crown, no palace, no power, and was treated like a traitor.

Jesus, too, lived His daily life from the character of a King, though He had no crown or throne, and His subjects rejected Him and sought to kill Him as a blasphemer.

If you're looking for glory and honor in this life, you're confused—you're not following Jesus.

If you think the life of faith is the key to the good life in this culture, you're confused about God's Kingdom—it's not of this world.

If you think your "good life" here is the result of your faith, you're confused about faith's purpose—those trappings are God's gifts to you, your equipment for service, not your just deserts.

What we do see is Jesus, through our faith in God's Word, crowned with glory and honor, as we shall one day be—not now, but then; not here, but there. You, too, are to live this life from the character of a king—not a pauper, not a beggar, not a victim.

If you have experienced the new birth, you have been chosen and anointed by Jesus Christ. But we're not there yet. We are on the Way. This world is not our home, we're just a'passing through.

One day, your faith, which sees what is not yet visible, will turn to sight (the invisible will become visible to all). And when faith turns to sight, then you will see Jesus as He is (His entire work completed), and you will be like Him (your entire life transformed).

And so, dear brothers and sisters, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and think carefully about Him. Live with the same attitude He had. Hold the things of this world lightly, and the things of the next firmly.

Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:2-3)