

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Man

"Every man is as Heaven made him, and sometimes a great deal worse." – Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

"Man has wants deeper than can be supplied by wealth or nature or domestic affections. His great relations are to his God and to eternity." – Mark Hopkins

"Man, biologically considered...is simply the most formidable of all beasts of prey, and, indeed, the only one that preys systematically on its own kind." – William James, *Atlantic Monthly*, Dec 1904

"Wonderful and vast as is the universe, man is greater. The universe does not know that it exists; man does. The universe is not free to act; man is. – Martin J. Scott

"What a piece of work is man!" – William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act II, Sc. ii

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psa. 139:14). Indeed man is a marvel of God's creation. Unlike the beasts of the field, man has been made in the very image of the Creator (Gen. 1:27).

Man, however, is quite a puzzle. He has been given intellect and a soul. There is no other creature in this world that has attained the heights of man. His technological advancements at times are truly staggering. But if he is not careful, man tends to exalt himself above God.

A real insight into man is seen in the story of Babel (Gen. 11). On that occasion man boasted, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:4). As you note this passage some things become enlightening. There is no mention of God, but the intense desire to make a name for themselves. They were defying the very words that God had spoken: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Gen. 9:1).

Man, in his arrogance, faced the punishment of God. God confused their language and made it such that they could not achieve what they wanted. But in God's infinite wisdom, we learn that this event brought on the desired result of man being scattered "abroad from there over the face of all the earth" (Gen. 11:8).

Yes, man is truly a wondrous creation of God. But man must remember that he is the creation and not the Creator! "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7).