

- 15 *As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.*  
 16 *For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.*  
 17 *But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*  
 18 *To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.*  
 19 *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.*  
 20 *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*  
 21 *Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*  
 22 *Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.*  
*(Psalm 103)*

The glory of God is rooted in His mercies: their sovereign freedom. They are altogether undeserved, uncaused by any one or anything outside Himself. “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy” (Exodus 33:18-19). Their innumerable benefits: “*Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise?*” Their eternal endurance: “*from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103:17)*” Their universality and certainty: established in the throne of heaven, “*and His kingdom ruleth over all*” (Psalm 103:19).

Man’s glory, the best that may be viewed of his fleeting appearance on earth, is, by contrast, grass. This humble herb, the most common of visible living creatures, least esteemed, is the embodiment of impermanence. It is granted for a moment in its brief existence to blossom and flower. Its beauty and fragrance, however, evaporates with one soft puff of warm breeze. It is gone. Its memory is forgotten, and its place bears no evidence it was ever there. So it is with *man*. He lives his entire life, vainly imagining he is “making a difference,” that the world will be changed by his mark, that his memory will be honored and cherished. Most will be forgotten in a generation. The famous and renowned, with all their works, will also utterly disappear from the sight of the living. But the glories of the Lord in His mercies have their enduring permanence in an eternity that has no end, because it has no beginning. Therefore, all of God’s creation is called upon to honor, laud, bless and praise Him, and Him alone.

“*Bless the Lord, ye His angels*” (vs. 20). These are those who are the strongest of His creatures. Man is made a bit lower. Angels, in near proximity to God, are best able to praise and adore Him, even while veiling their faces from the full brilliance of the Light that He is. They are better able to bless Him, because, unlike *man*, and their fallen fellows who forfeit a pure heart by rebellion and disobedience, they have always heeded His voice and obeyed His word and done His will. We, too, as we learn to heed His voice and do His will, increase in strength and vigor to admire and bless the Lord.

“*Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure*” (vs. 21). Our God’s ministers are not restricted to the heavenly angels; His kingdom rules over all. The rebellious as well as the obedient yet do His will and accomplish His purpose. Hosts, from brute beasts to minute organisms, are ordered through the means given them by their Creator to accomplish the end of glorifying Him. Nor do living creatures alone serve as our God’s ministers. The heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, all run their course, exert their influences and powers on behalf of their Creator. The waters, the winds, the stones, the elements —the very dust in the balances – all serve the purpose and accomplish the pleasure of the Creator. They all must bless and glorify the Lord.

“*Bless the Lord, all His works*” (vs. 22). What He has done must praise Him; His very creation, the mountains, valleys, plains, deserts, forests, rivers oceans. His past and current acts: the rains, the floods, drought, storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, disease and death. His deliverances, hearing, comforts, fruits of the field, forest, and womb of woman. Music, color, beauty, order, technology, knowledge, salvation, joy and peace. All shall properly and gloriously bless His Name.

“*Bless the Lord, O my soul.*” Seeing all else must, and will, bless the Lord, either voluntarily or involuntarily, should not we bless the Lord and forget not any of His marvelous benefits? For our great God has employed all of the above to work together for good to us who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). How can we ever forget and fail to bless the Lord Whose mercies toward us endure forever and ever?

-C.M.