

THE MAJESTY AND GOODNESS OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson #177

David learned as a young boy to appreciate the goodness of God in his life and just how great God is! He opens and closes this psalm declaring the majesty of God's name. He says, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

The greatness of God was first demonstrated when He created all that exists today. And, in this psalm, David recounts the wonderful things God has done in creating all things. It was such an awesome thing that even children and infants sing praises to God in heaven above. The rejoicing in song is great enough that it even silences God's enemies.

As David looks up at the stars in the sky, he describes God's creative work as "the work of your fingers." It is so great, that when David considers his own position in relation to it, he can only say, "what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" David is amazed how God is so willing to care for man, despite how spectacular all of creation is.

God cares so much for us that he created men and women "a little lower than the heavenly beings" (or angels). In fact, men and women were created in the "image and likeness of God" as it says in Genesis 1:26.

David goes on to speak of how, once man was created, God put him in a wonderful position to care for his creation. He was made to be "ruler over the works of your (God's) hands." Everything was put "under his feet." This means that men and women had the responsibility to look after and manage all that God created. All the animals, whether they were on the land, in the air, or in the sea were to be ruled by man.

To David this was just amazing! As David looked up in the sky, he felt so small compared to God. Yet God cared so much, that he created men and women to be special, and made them the crowning piece of his creation.

No wonder David said, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- David was a shepherd as a young boy. His days tending sheep out in the country gave him a lot of time to reflect on God's goodness. He no doubt spent many an evening gazing up into the starry nights thinking all about God. That might have influenced his thoughts as he was writing Psalm 19, which says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
- David spoke of the majesty of God's "name." Much later after David's life, the prophet Malachi also spoke a lot about the majesty of God's name. He said: "those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 'They will be mine,' says the LORD Almighty, 'I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.'"
- The word translated "heavenly beings" is the Hebrew word "*elohim*." It means "mighty ones." It is the same Hebrew word that is translated in Genesis 1:26 as God. In the creation account, it is the "mighty ones," the angels of God, who were God's agents carrying out his creative work.
- The phrase "son of man" in verse 4 is quoted in the book of Hebrews in the New Testament concerning Jesus (Hebrews 2:6-10). Jesus will be exalted above all other men and women when he becomes King in God's Kingdom.

ANSWER KEY:

What is man?

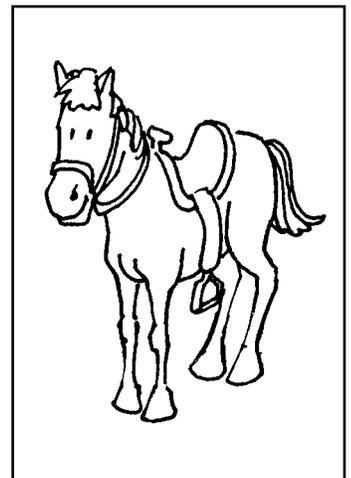
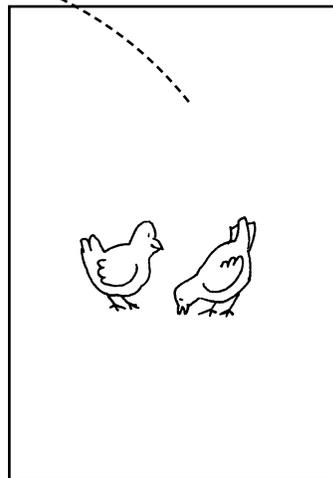
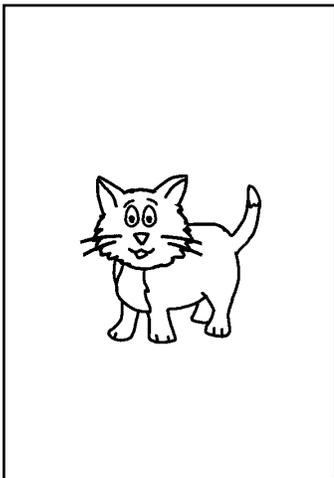
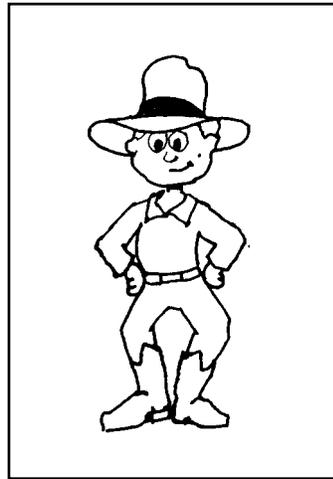
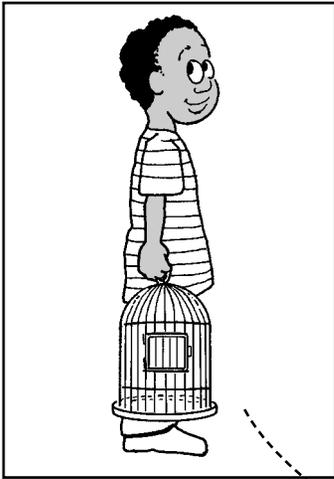
Adam

honey, tall, swim, crowd, juice

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

God made us special!

Match the children with their pets.



Name _____