

Forward - What is Man*?

Do you remember the 1982 movie “Blade Runner” directed by Ridley Scott, where Blade Runner Rick Deckard played by Harrison Ford pursued “artificial humans” called replicants which had escaped and were now on the loose? The highly evolved replicants had a limited lifespan but had to be controlled; the last of the four being tracked down by Deckard was Roy Batty played by Rutger Hauer. Near the end of the movie, Roy was dying yet had defeated Deckard and even had saved his life; as the two were sitting in the rain on top of a roof, Roy, holding a white dove, reflected on his life and his desire for life (even though he was a manufactured product). He had seen amazing things during his program and though artificial, he wished to live on...he had feelings and memory. He says to Deckard...” I’ve seen things you people” [humans] wouldn’t believe like “attack ships on fire off the shores of Orion” and “C-beams glittering in the dark at the Tannhauser Gate”. Moments lost in time, washed away [when he dies] like “tears in rain”. As Deckard looks on in wonderment...wondering why he was saved by an artificial robot, and reflecting on his own life...Roy says, “time to die” and dies; he then releases the white dove.

The story makes you think about life, experiences, memories, value, enjoyment and our contribution. What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to be created? I would push farther by asking, what does it mean to be created by God; the God who gave you your every breath, that created your heart to pump life blood through 90,000 miles of arteries and veins in your body; the God who created your brain to think, reason and love? What does it all really mean?

What Is Man?

Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?

Job 38:31

“If we are inclined to boast of our abilities, the grandeur of nature will quickly show us how puny we are. We cannot move the least of all the twinkling stars or quench so much as one of the sunbeams of the morning. We speak of power, but the heavens laugh us to scorn. When the stars shine forth in spring-like joy, we cannot restrain their influences; and when Orion reigns above, and the year is bound in winter's chains, we cannot relax the icy grip. The seasons arrive by divine appointment, and it is impossible for men to change the cycle. Lord, what is man?

In the spiritual, as in the natural, world, man's power is limited on all hands. When the Holy Spirit sheds abroad His delights in the soul, none can disturb; all the cunning and malice of men are unable to prevent the genial, quickening power of the Comforter. When He deigns to visit a church and revive it, the most inveterate enemies cannot resist the good work; they may ridicule it, but they can no more restrain it than they can push back the spring when the Pleiades rule the hour. God wills it, and so it must be.

On the other hand, if the Lord in sovereignty, or in justice, binds up a man so that his soul is in bondage, who can give him liberty? He alone can remove the winter of spiritual death from an individual or a people. He looses the bands of Orion, and none but He. What a blessing it is that He can do it. O that He would perform the wonder tonight. Lord, end my winter, and let my spring begin. I cannot with all my longings

*raise my soul out of her death and dullness,
but all things are possible with You. I need
heavenly influences, the clear shinings of Your
love, the beams of Your grace, the light of Your
countenance--these are as summer suns to
me. I suffer greatly from sin and temptation;
these are my terrible wintry signs. Lord, work
wonders in me, and for me. Amen."*

March 21, 2018 Morning Devotional by *Truth for Life* from "Morning and Evening," written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg at *Truth for Life*. Copyright © 2003, Good News Publishers and used by written permission.