

When you read Psalm 8 in the NIV 1984 translation, a more literal translation, you are left with the question that the original reader would have asked: “Who is this ‘son of man’?” The original reader probably would have thought ‘son of man’ was just a reference to a human being. But as we read this psalm through the lens of the New Testament, we realize that ‘son of man’ has a deeper significance because Jesus called himself ‘the Son of Man.’ The NIV 2011 translation, in an effort to use gender inclusive language, has lost that double meaning of the psalm, it has lost the messianic character of the psalm. See also [1 Corinthians 15:27](#) and [Hebrews 2:5-9](#) where the New Testament authors recognize the messianic character of the psalm.

### Psalm 8 – NIV 1984 Translation

O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory  
above the heavens.  
From the lips of children and infants  
you have ordained praise  
because of your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him,  
**The son of man** that you care for him?  
You made **him** a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned **him** with glory and honor.

You made **him** rule over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under **his** feet:  
All flocks and herds,  
and beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air,  
and the fish of the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### Psalm 8 – NIV 2011 Translation

<sup>1</sup> LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory  
in the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
**human beings** that you care for them?<sup>(a)</sup>

<sup>5</sup> You have made **them**<sup>(a)</sup> a little lower than the angels<sup>(a)</sup>  
and crowned **them**<sup>(a)</sup> with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You made **them** rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under **their**<sup>(a)</sup> feet:

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,

<sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

