

- So then—my understanding is that when we come to this phrase, “*nor any other creature*” - let’s allow the context to dictate to us how to think about that.

- And even though it may not ‘feel’ quite right (or at the moment ‘sit well’ in our thinking [so to speak]) - instead of changing the meaning of a term like “*creature*” to mean ‘created beings’ - (and I mean ‘changing’ the meaning, because that’s **not** what we’ve come to understand what the word *creature* is talking about in the context of our sonship establishment) — so for now, instead of changing the meaning of *creature* to something else, let’s allow it to mean just what we’ve come to understand and appreciate it to mean in the context of our sonship establishment.

- And as you well know—we have had the term *creature* brought up; in fact, it is the **major** focus of our attention in sonship establishment when it comes to our Father making us aware of what His business with us is all about, the inheritance that comes out of that business, and what He’s going to do with us in that business, etc., etc. —

- And so when we were dealing with “*the creature*” back in Romans 8:19-21, what did we come to understand and appreciate that *the creature* was?

- Well, my understanding is that *any other creature* is talking about that same thing!

- It’s talking about the heavenly places! — it’s not talking about any creatures or created beings on this earth!

- And I not only understand that because of the contextual usage of the word *creature*—but far more than that, it’s actually those 2 words that precede “*any other creature*” - the words ***height*** and ***depth***!!

- So, because of the nature of what the *height* and *depth* is talking about, plus the fact that I’ve already been given information concerning *the creature* (as being a major concern in sonship establishment) — therefore, my understanding is that *any other creature* **refers to the fact that there are at least more than one other creature out there in “*the creature*”!**

- The only way that word *other* **smoothly** fits this passage is to understand that Paul’s talking about *the creature* (just as we’ve come

to understand and appreciate it from Romans 8:19-21) - and when he says, “*nor any other creature*,” he’s referring to that *creature* (being the heavenly places that embody the earth) - and that there are at least more than one other creature out there in the heavenly places!

- And the truth of the matter is—there is far more sound evidence than this for saying that *any other creature* refers to there being more than one other creature out there in the overall *creature* of the heavenly places—

- Because the truth of the matter is, if you understood *the creature* (the heavenly places) properly as to how God’s word describes them and has you to look at them and perceive some things about them—you wouldn’t have any problem at all saying, Yep, I already know that there are these *other creatures* out there in *the creature* as a whole.

- In fact, the truth of the matter is—you are supposed to come here to Romans 8:39—and when you see that word *height*, you should know what that’s referring to from what you’ve come to understand from God’s word already—and when you see that word *depth*, you should know what that’s referring to from what you’ve already come to know from God’s word as well!

- Again—when Paul uses these words in (:39), he doesn’t explain what any of them mean—and therefore if they are a puzzle to you, then you should know that there’s information sitting back in God’s word that you should already know that defines what these terms mean and what Paul is talking about.

- And it’s from what God’s word has already said about *height*, *depth*, and *any other creature* that the **solid, sound** evidence can be found for **settling** the matter that *any other creature* is talking about there being more than one other creature out there in that overall *creature* of the heavenly places.

- Now I just want to state for the record—that 1) I don’t have every detail settled out in my own mind about ‘*any other creature*’ in the overall *creature* of the heavenly places, and 2) this isn’t the best place to have dealt with this issue—because the truth of the matter is, if there is a lack of understanding about this, it should have been covered back in Romans 8:19-21.

- But here we are—and here this is—and I’m going to give you my understanding—at least as far as how much I do have settled in my own mind.

- And I guarantee you that we will have adequate understanding of *height*, *depth*, and *any other creature* for the full, effectual working of (:39) to do its job!

- You may want a more than that, but adequate is all you need.

- My understanding is that when you go back and learn about *the creature*—and you pay attention to how God created the “*heaven*” and all the heavenly places—and you pay particular attention to how He causes you to look at those heavenly places—you come across areas where you do begin to think of that *creature* in a plural sense—

- In other words, you have this overall issue of the heavenly places that embody the earth being described as “*the creature*” - but the truth is, there are sub-components of the *creature* itself that can be viewed and thought of and called a *creature* in and of itself.

- Just as an illustration to this—we can more easily think of another word (but similar in nature) than *creature*, and we have no problem at all recognizing the plural nature of it:

“*heaven*” & “*heavens*” - and when Paul refers to himself over in II Cor. 12:2, he says that he was “*caught up to the third heaven.*” (not a new idea)

- Therefore you can talk about the overall *heaven* in the singular—or you can talk about different levels that make up the heaven, and talk about them as, (shall we say), ‘*any other heaven*’.

- And by way of another illustration—we can talk about something within our own culture this very way—for example we can talk about a *body* in this same type way—because you can talk about *the body of government* as a whole (the governing *body*) - or you can talk about sub-components to that governing body as the *body of congressmen*, or the *body of the senate*—and there you have one word (*body*) being used in a singular sense and in a plural sense—but all talking about the same overall issue.

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- And when we have the apostle Paul referring to the *height*, the *depth*, and *any other creature* in Romans 8:39 — that's all terminology regarding THE CREATURE, itself!
 - The creature—has a thing to it called: the *height*;
The creature—has a thing to it called: the *depth*;
And the creature is actually composed of more than one *creature*!
 - And you find out about all that within the information in God's word where He talks about the kind of structure that makes up the heavenly realm.
 - And that means, therefore, that when you encounter the term *height*, and the term *depth*—and you understand them as being something that that the creature has—you understand and appreciate that those 2 terms **are not simply being used as terms of dimension!**
 - And you learn, as you go through God's word, that that realm (that later on gets designated as *the creature*) has got an extremely unique composition to it.
 - And it's got a composition to it that, later on, gets designated as having *height* to it—and not just *height* in the sense of a dimension—but height in the sense of a **hierarchy of orderliness!**
(or a body of individuals possessing authority)
 - And it's got a *depth* to it (not just in the sense of a dimension) - even though *the creature* does have those terms and those dimensions (which is just common sense to anyone who observes it.
 - But these things that Paul is talking about here **have got POWER to them!** — they have got a **capacity** to them — they've got a capacity to them that works hand-in-hand with the Policy of Evil, **and has a potential of producing an antagonistic separation upon us.** (to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.)
 - And that means that Paul is talking about an intelligence issue here!
 - And that's one reason why you only have these 2 being mentioned—and not 'width' or 'length' or any other dimension.

- And then that realm—that ends up being designated as “*the creature*” as a whole—because of its composition, it also has the ability to be spoken of as a **plurality** of creatures.
- And that’s why Paul says, *nor any other creature*.
- He’s not talking about dogs and cats and geese and goats and cows and sheep—
- **He’s talking about something that operates with that height, and operates with that depth!**
- Now all that just gets the issue out on the table (so to speak).
- I think the wisest thing to do at this point is to stop going down this path any further—and let’s go back to the first-things-first issue—and get back to the issue of “*any other creature*” after we’ve got a handle on the *height* and the *depth*.
- Verse 39 begins with those two terms: *Nor height, nor depth, ...*
- Now if you were to draw a simple sketch of the heavenly realm—of *the creature*—and you were to use just a simple geometric shape to draw it—what would you draw?
 - A circle? A sphere?
- Why would you do that? What has made you think of it as a circle or a sphere? (what, biblically speaking?)
- Job 22:12-17
 - First let’s note something in (:14)
14 Thick clouds are a covering to him, the he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.
 - What’s a “*circuit*”?
 - OED = the line, real or imaginary, described in going round any area; the distance round; the compass; circumference; - fig., something round; a circle.
 - Web. 1828 = the act of moving or passing round.

- Even in the Hebrew the word **gWx** (khoog) occurs 3x, and the KJ translators translated it once as “*circle*,” once as “*circuit*,” and once as “*compass*.”

- So then—if the general and basic shape that we’re to think about when we first come to appreciate the overall shape of the heavenly realm—is a circle (or better a sphere) - then if that’s true—and you’re standing on the earth (no matter where on the earth you’re standing—which way is “heaven”???)

- UP! — in a sphere, no matter what your perspective is within it, heaven is always up—your perspective of heaven is always one of *height*!

- And when you’re talking about a sphere (such as the earth) within a sphere (the heavenly realm/the *creature*)— you’ve only got 2 basic dimensions that you can utilize to talk about it: *height* and *depth*. (perspective-wise—that is, with you being on a smaller sphere [the earth] within this much larger sphere [the creature]).

- Over in the book of Proverbs, you actually have the Bible telling you what these 2 terms indicate when talking about (at least dimension-wise) *height* and *depth*.

- Pro. 25:3

- But as we noted before—these 2 terms in Romans 8:39 are not merely dimensional terms for the heavenly realm—but now, at the very least, you can kind of contain or corral your thoughts about *height* and *depth* to being “*The heaven*” and “*the earth*.”

- Also along these same lines—(and even with a little more perception), once again in the book of Job, notice what Zophar’s understanding was when he was thinking about the issue of *height* and *depth*.

- Job 11:5-8 (:8)

- So therefore at a minimum—we should understand and appreciate that if you’re simply talking about dimensional designations (in the context of talking about the heavenly realm/the *creature*) - when you’re talking about *height*, you’re talking about **heaven**—and when you’re talking about *depth*, you’re talking about the **earth**. — (That’s not much, but at least we’re getting in the ballpark).

- And once again—my understanding is that Paul is NOT using *height* and *depth* this way—he's not using those terms as mere dimensions of *the creature*—but he's got more focus in mind than that—these terms are talking about specific realms within *the creature* that have got **power** to them—and capacity to them to work within the Policy of Evil in the sense of a hierarchy of authority that has the potential of producing an antagonistic separation upon us to *separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

- Now I say that the terms *height and depth* are not **merely** dimensional terms—but the truth is, you can find many passages in God's word that, when it talks about *the creature* in terms of dimensions or in terms of mapping it out—you **do** come to realize that there's a *height* dimension of *the creature*; and a *depth* dimension of it—and then with it says, *nor any other creature*, that's also talking about a physical aspect (or aspects) of the heavenly realm.

- And of all that the apostle Paul could say about *the creature*—there's a particular reason why he only brings up these 3 physical aspects of it—(*height, depth, nor any other creature*) — and that has to do with the particular **one** who desires to *separate us from the love of Christ*.

- And it's not so much that the actual physical place called the *height* or the *depth* or *any other creature* can do anything in and of themselves—but the reason for bringing them up has to do with those particular physical features of *the creature* that are now in the hands of the Adversary—**and what the Adversary can do from those places**—that makes those places **significant** when it comes to his **desire** and his **ability to implement his desire**, when it comes to *separating us from the love of Christ*.

- Therefore, what Paul has in mind by the *height*, the *depth*, and *any other creature*—is that he knows that those are particular significant places in *the creature* that are (so to speak) **the mechanical means** at the disposal of the Adversary for implementing his plan of evil, and bring aspects of it to pass upon us as we live our sonship lives out on this earth.

- And all I'm after for now is to say that my understanding is that there are these physical areas in *the creature*—one called the *height*, and one called the *depth*, and also there are these *other creatures* (or creature sub-systems) within the overall *creature* itself—that have some specific power to them that the Adversary can utilize for the particular purpose of *separating us from the love of Christ*.

- **height, depth** — let's get a grasp upon these 2 physical areas in *the creature* that are useful areas for the Adversary to implement his plan of evil.

- And when you think about Satan's original designs on implementing his plan of evil—where in God's word do you think about when that issue comes up and gets stated very specifically?

- Isaiah 14— the 5 “*I wills*” of Lucifer.

- Isa. 14:12-15 (read)

- You've got a *height* being mentioned—and you've got a *depth* being mentioned—and he wants those particular places to operate from!

- Granted, the major emphasis is upon “*the heights*” in this passage—but if you pay careful attention—there are 3 **thrones** he's after—and one of them specifically is **above** all the rest—and it's that one that's the “*height*” that Paul has in mind.

- And very simply put—but simple as it is, it's a very profound issue—the *height* and the *depth* are both talking about 2 specific areas that the Adversary has at his disposal—and the *height* and the *depth* are his 2 **POWER BASES**—**that gives him total access throughout the entire realm of creation!**

- And gives him the legal right to implement his Policies of Evil, **any place he wants to!**

- And he needs 2 of them—because of the nature of what he desires when he says, “*I will be like the most High.*” (... possessor of heaven and earth)

- And he has power at his disposal in the *height* and power at his disposal in the *depth*—by which he can implement his policies of evil to be *like the most High*—and to directly bring to bear the influence of his policies of evil upon us as sons on this earth!

- In fact, if my understanding is correct, he's basing the majority of his success for implementing his plan of evil upon the *height*!

- And my understanding is that he's after 3 thrones—and of those 3, it's that 3rd one that is the highest—and that can be called, the *height*! (singular, in Romans 8:39)

- In fact, Lucifer actually stakes the entire success of his plan of evil upon the *height*—and that's because when he formulated it, there was no “*hell*” yet!

- Now while we could go and explore a whole bunch of things in connection with all this—and get ourselves ‘lost in the woods’ (so to speak) - let’s not go off dealing with the details of the *height* and the *depth* at this point—let’s just acknowledge the reality that due to the fact that from the 5th probing question there in Romans 8:35, and on to the very end of the chapter—Paul, (in the context of what’s going on), is dealing with having to live our sonship lives under the influence of our enemy (the Adversary) and his policy of evil.

- And therefore all of the terminology in (:38) is terminology that has to do with that Satanic policy of evil—and the same thing is true here in (:39).

- (:39) is all *creature* terminology! — the *height*, *depth*, and any other *creature* is all dealing with *the creature* and the **power bases** that Satan has in it from which his policy of evil can bring **influence** to bear upon us as sons that would seek to *separate us from the love of Christ*.

- And I think the best and wisest thing to do here is to keep all this as simple as possible—because thinking of these things simplistically is really all that your Father expects you to be able to do.

- And by what we’ve looked at in the past few Bible classes—you should be able to simply acknowledge that God’s word says some things concerning the makeup of the heavenly realm that consists of *height* (as a power-base) and *depth* (the earth) as a particular power-base as well.

- And those 2 sources (*height/depth*) go into the structural makeup of *the creature*.

- And that also therefore means that when the Adversary implemented his plan of evil in creation as a whole—(which is something touched upon back there in Romans 8:16-25—and something that should have been recognized—i.e., when the *creature was made subject to vanity and the bondage of corruption* was brought upon it and upon the earth—and the revelation of the mystery now provides for the deliverance of the **entire** implementation of the Adversary’s plan of evil [the earth through Israel, and now us, the members of the new creature of the church the body of Christ taking care of *the creature* itself]) — and once again, the issue is that when you’re dealing with the Adversary (as we are doing in :35-39) - and you’re dealing with the issue of ‘all that he **can** do’ in connection with his ability to work out his policy of evil against us—endeavoring to *separate us from the love of Christ* by the various tactics and means that are at his disposal — there’s going to be, therefore, a natural need to, (when you’re thinking about that), [as :38 & 39 are doing] ...

... and looking at it in a way in which you're to realize **all** that the Adversary does have at his disposal—and I'm now *persuaded* by all that I've been taught from (:35-37, especially) that **NOTHING** that he has at his disposal—and nothing that he can do, therefore, in connection with what he has at his disposal—is going to be able to *separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus* — well, when you're thinking about that, therefore, there are some natural things that run through your mind when you put together those issues that would make up everything that the Adversary **has** at his disposal.

- And that means, therefore, that you're not only going to naturally think of the *death & life* issue—you're not only going to naturally think of the *angels, principalities & powers* issue—you're not only going to think of the *things present/things to come* issue—but you're also going to think about something that has to do with the **structure** of *the creature* itself—because there's something significant about the structure of *the creature* itself as it pertains to what the Adversary **has** at his disposal.

- And Isaiah 14 makes you aware of what he did in the heavenly realm to establish his **power base** there.

- But when Adam was created—Satan had to do a similar type thing here on this earth when it came to **securing a power base here**.

- And so, in view of what he has done in creation as a whole—(because the Adversary has implemented a plan of evil that not only includes the heavenly realm, but also includes the earth) — and so therefore he's got at his disposal, (when it comes to the opportunity for him to work from these 2 power bases—and highly significant sources & resources at his disposal in connection with opposing us) — he's got some high-level type capacities at his disposal, because of what he's done —

— he's got the ability to operate from the *height* ...

— and he's got the ability to operate from the *depth* ...

- And that means, therefore, that as far as the overall creation is concerned—**there's no area (so to speak) within the resources of the whole creation that are not at his disposal! — that he cannot operate from!**

- And the truth of the matter is—that basic concept—that basic realization—is really all that you need to understand and appreciate at this particular time—and that's all that's being called upon at this particular time, when it comes to realizing and **rejoicing** in the fact that our Father, in connection with the provision He has made for us to succeed in the living out of our sonship lives

has taken into account—(when it comes to taking into account the **specific opposition** from the Adversary) — built into the curriculum when it comes to dealing with the Adversary—**our Father has even taken into account the full range of power that the Adversary has at his disposal!**

- Whether it comes from the *height*—or whether it comes from the *depth*—**it's been taken into account!**

- And if my understanding is correct—that's the extent of understanding and appreciation that we're expected to have at this particular time.

- And that's the amount of information we're supposed to be able to have—to be able to state the *persuasion* that (:35-37) have been designed to give us!

- That in view of all that—to state that we are *persuaded* that **regardless** of what the opposition that could come from either 'polar end' (so to speak) of the range of the power-bases and all that's available at the Adversary's disposal throughout creation as a whole, (based upon the fact that his plan of evil has been implemented throughout the whole thing) — none of it (no matter where it comes from—either from the *height* or the *depth* or any place in between), none of it has not (double negative) been taken into account by our Father—and none of it has not been provided for by Him in the curriculum so that we can therefore withstand the attempts the Adversary will make as he utilizes those resources at his disposal from those 2 power bases—and as we utilize the resource that the curriculum for our sonship education is going to give us to become the *more than conqueror* in connection with those things!

- And so you've got the *height* as being the highest throne or highest position of power that the Adversary has at his disposal—and then the kind of polar opposite of that is the *depth*.

- And we know that the *depth* is talking about the **earth**—but really it's even more specific than that.

- And you've got like a sphere within a sphere—with the earth being in the midst of the heavenly realm—and so if we operate upon the perspective of you and me standing upon the earth—no matter where you are on the earth—when you talk about the heavenly realm, it's always '*high*' (so to speak) - and if you stay with that perspective of us standing on the earth, you really aren't talking about the earth in general as being the *depth*—because you have to take that perspective and go down from there (and there's only one way to go)

... (and it's not just our perspective, but God Himself, also views it this way) — now, once again, God sees the heavenly realm as having these areas or levels that extend out from the earth and go to the very highest realm of heaven itself—and as you go out, those levels get more and more significant, and more and more powerful—with the most powerful being the “*height*” (singular, notice Rom. 8:39 is *height* sing.) which has the most power and capacity **and is the greatest power position in the creature**—which is why in Isa. 14 the Adversary wants to *ascend above the heights of the clouds*—and that throne *above* those *clouds* is the most powerful one of all (the one that has at its disposal, **everything that's underneath it!**)

- and as far as the highest & most powerful position that the Adversary has got as far as *the creature* is concerned—that's where he's put his throne: in the **height!**

- And then when it came to implementing his plan of evil on the earth—and successfully did so as described there in Genesis 3— well, in connection with how God **responded** to Adam's sin and losing the monarchy of the earth—when you study out God's **response** to all that—you realize that the Adversary was not allowed to establish his power-base **ON** the earth—he had to establish it **IN** the earth!

- And to get back to where I was going a minute ago—as you stand on the earth and talk about the *depth* perspective-wise—my understanding is that the *depth* **is the heart of the earth!**

- And that's why he, as the one who has the power of death—(Heb. 2:14)

*14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he (the Lord Jesus Christ) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the **power of death**, that is, the devil;*

the Adversary set up his other power-base in the heart of the earth!

- And again, what you've got in the *height* and the *depth*—you've got the complete **range** that the Adversary's got within creation as a whole—in connection with being able to utilize the resources of what's in creation at his disposal.

- And from his power base in the *height*—he can use anything within the creature—and from his power base within the heart of the earth (the *depth*)—he can use anything within the earthly realm!

- And the issue is, once again, to **not** get a technical, detailed, categorical, 'stem to stern' analysis of all this—but the issue is: All you need to understand right now is that, in view of the Adversary's policy of evil to try to *separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus*—the issue is that the Father's curriculum for our sonship education (to enable us to endure that policy of evil—& not succumb to it or be victimized by it—and to be *more than conquerors* in connection with it) — our Father's curriculum has taken into account everything that the Adversary can employ, **no matter from what is at his disposal (in either power base), to employ that policy of evil!** (No matter what position of strength he's able to employ it from!)

- The whole range has been covered!!!

- And that's all you need to know at this point. (detail-wise)

- And that takes care of the *height* and the *depth*.

- And that leaves that final phrase: ***nor any other creature.***

- And *the creature* as a whole is made up of these sub-systems that can, in and of themselves, be referred to as a *creature*.

- And there's **more than one** other sub-system or sub-creature out there in *the creature* as a whole.

- And the simplest way to say it for now—(and actually, it's perfectly sufficient to say it this way for now, and let it go at that for now) — **the issue of any other creature pertains to everything that in between the *height* and the *depth*.**

- And so you've got Paul's final grouping or fourth area/source from which the Adversary can and will deliver his attempts to separate us from *the love of Christ*: **39 *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, ...***

- And then you've got:

shall be able to separate us from the love of God, ...

- And here you have the same issue of *the love of Christ* as mentioned up in verse 35—but now it's **necessary** that you appreciate that your love for your sonship status, sonship life, and the living out of that sonship life to attain all of its aims, goals, and objectives—that was developed in you, and you now possess—that's *the love of God* your Heavenly Father, too! (equal to the Son!)

- This isn't Paul (or God) being redundant or repetitive—and there's significance to why in (:35) He says, "*the love of Christ*" and then says here in (:39), "*the love of God*" - because it's necessary to state our full *persuasion* in connection with the 2 beings to which our adoption as sons is concerned—our adoption concerns the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who provided for our adoption by means of the redemption He performed as our Redeemer, and whose *image* we are to be *conformed* by means of successfully going through the sonship education—and it concerns **God** the Father who **is** our Father and who worked and planned and designed and forged for us the entire method and curriculum and provisions for us to be adopted as His son, and to be successful with the curriculum He's written for our sonship education!

- And finally, you have those last 7 words:

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- And that phrase brings us full-circle—because that brings us back to what began all the way back there in Romans chapter 6—where the doctrine of our godly sanctification all began.

- And it all began with the doctrine concerning who God has made us to be “in Christ” — our **identity** “in Christ” — and this *love of God* (this *love of God* we now possess—a love for our sonship life that is now on par with Christ's love for it, and on par with God our Father's love for it) — all of that is based upon who we are “*in Christ Jesus our Lord*” — that's where it's found—and that's where it all takes place!

- Therefore you should now be able to tell your Father—Father, *I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord!*

- *I am persuaded* that not even all that the Adversary has at his disposal in the full range of his power bases and everything that exists at his disposal in between those 2 power bases—*is able to separate me from the love of God* (my sonship life) *which is in Christ Jesus my Lord*—**Father, I am persuaded** your curriculum can do it's job ... regardless of all these things... and I'll never abandon it!!!

- So your final probing question is over—as you, with **real sonship intelligence** declare your *persuasion*—and assess and evaluate the living out of your sonship life under the influence of the Satanic Policy of Evil—you declare your *persuasion* that in view of everything you’ve been taught from Romans 8:16-37 that you are fully *persuaded* that your Father has, and your Father’s curriculum has, the ability to do their job— and for me to be successful as His son as I ever operate upon that curriculum, and as I am *led by the Spirit* through it—even under that powerful influence of the Policy of Evil!

- I am persuaded that All things really do work together for good; and that in all these things I am more than a conqueror through him that loved me!

- And that’s the end of the typical aspects of your sonship establishment.

- If everything in Romans 8:16-39 has effectually done its job in your inner man—you are now fully established as a son/daughter of God your Heavenly Father!

- END OF ROMANS CHAPTER 8!!!