

Why did God create Humanity

Humanity: Made in The Image of God Pt 2

The Obvious Meaning of the Image of God

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Last week, after examining the concept of the image of God, we reached one conclusion that remains consistent with the Genesis passages regarding the image of God.

At times, the Hebrew preposition translated "in" can mean "as," which denotes function or status: this means that it can be said that humanity was created "as" the image of God. Humans are created as God's imager.

In other words, they are created to function as God's representatives or ambassadors here on the earth. The apostle Paul reiterates this when he discusses believers as ambassadors. 2

Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- **Representing Christ:** An ambassador's actions, words, and character are meant to embody and reflect the leader they represent, and in the same way, believers embody Christ.
- **A Lifestyle, Not Just a Job:** Being an ambassador for Christ is not a part-time role or a formal job, but rather a lifestyle that should permeate every aspect of a believer's life.
- **Authority of the Sender:** As ambassadors, Christians act with the authority of the one who sent them—God—rather than their own.

According to this view, the image of God is not a quality within human beings; it is what humans are. Every human, regardless of their stage of development, is an imager of God.

Jesus as the Image of God

One of the meanings of the phrase "image of God" means that people are created as God's image or as His imager (**Genesis 1:27**). The image of God language in the New Testament brings this into focus: Jesus is described as God's imager, and believers are to image Christ.

Two passages refer to Jesus as the image of God: **2 Corinthians 4:4** and **Colossians 1:15**.

2 Corinthians 4:4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

These passages describe the incarnation of Christ, the eternal God, who became a human being.

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

So we see Christ coming in the appearance of a man but functioning in the image of God.

Believers are destined to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

This glorification is a process. **2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

This language is a call to act as Jesus would, living in a manner that reflects Him. Acting like Jesus refers to the practical idea of the image of God, suggesting that we view the image of God as a verbal concept.

Just as Jesus embodied God's likeness, individuals are called to reflect Christ's likeness as well. This act of reflection plays a vital role in fulfilling the purpose of human creation, as stated in **Genesis 1:27**, which indicates that humans are made as the image of God.

The process of transforming to reflect His image is recognized as a gradual one. In **2 Corinthians 3:18**, it is highlighted that believers, with their faces uncovered, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, a work attributed to the Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

It is believed that this divine imaging will extend beyond earthly life. In **1 Corinthians 15:49**, Paul states that just as humans have been made in the image of the earthly man, they shall also be made in the image of the heavenly one. **1 Corinthians 15:48-49 (NLT) 48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. 49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.**

This points to a future fulfillment of the transformation into Christ's total likeness, which extends beyond earthly existence.

The purpose of all of God's sons are to be in His image

God's rule in the unseen spiritual world through His counsel is a template for His rule on earth, which is called the kingdom of God.

Remember, Jesus is called both the Son of Man and the Son of God. He is an example for humanity, and also for the sons of God in heaven.

Remember, at least a 3rd of the angels rebelled at the Influence of satan and fell with him.

Revelation 12:4 (NLT) His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

The Garden of Eden, Adam's Home, God's Throne

In Genesis, we see God creating the Garden of Eden to place humanity on the earth. That's where God put them to rule and reign (**Genesis 2:15-25**).

In the celestial realm, the Garden of Eden stands as a magnificent representation of divine authority, serving as the location of God's throne and His heavenly Home Office. The prophet Ezekiel refers to this sacred place as "**the garden of God**" (**Ezekiel 28:13; 31:8-9**), a title that beautifully captures its divine essence. Surprisingly, right after calling it "**the garden of God**," Ezekiel also names it "**the holy mountain of God**" (**Ezekiel 28:14**), further emphasizing its significance.

This illustrates a profound connection: God governs His creation from the heavenly garden, while on earth, He places man in the lush and vibrant **Garden of Eden**. This earthly paradise is not merely a home; it is a realm where mankind is entrusted with the incredible responsibility to rule and reign over the earth, reflecting God's authority and stewardship.

Earth made to reflect Heaven

Don't forget the concept that Jesus taught us to pray for in **Matthew 6:10 (NLT): 'May your Kingdom come soon.' May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

While no single verse says Earth is an *exact replica* of Heaven, several scriptures pick up on the concept of "**on Earth as it is in Heaven**" from **Matthew 6:10**, suggesting Earth was created to **mirror heavenly realities**, with the earthly sanctuary being a "copy and shadow" of the true one in Heaven. This is evident in the earthly tabernacle and the Garden of Eden, which were designed to reflect heavenly realities and God's relationship with His people.

Hebrews 9:24-25 (NLT) For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.

Hebrews 8:3-5 (NLT) And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. 4 If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. 5 They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: "Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain."

The idea isn't that Earth is identical in substance to Heaven, but rather that Earth was intended to be a **shadow or a reflection** of heavenly realities.

God's Imagers on Earth as in Heaven

Council Structure and Business

As born-again believers, one of the things that we need to realize is that God is a God of order and structure. And out of this order and structure, God does his business by fulfilling His plan in heaven and here on the earth, in the seen and the unseen worlds.

When Jesus instructed us to pray on earth as it is in heaven, we need to take that seriously. The natural realm we inhabit is intended to reflect heaven, both in principle and ultimately in reality.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

In **Revelation 21**, we witness the merging of heaven and earth into a single, glorious reality, where all of God's children—both heavenly beings and earthly sons—will reign together with Christ for all eternity.

The "sons of God" in heaven appear several times in the Bible, usually in God's presence.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

"Presenting themselves" means that they came to report the results they had obtained from walking in their God-given assignments.

God's heavenly sons were around before God began to fashion the earth and create humanity.

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

God calls these spiritual beings His sons. Since He created them, the "family" language makes sense.

But besides being their Father, God is also their king.

In the ancient world, kings often ruled through their extended families. Kingship was passed on to heirs.

The word says God sees born-again believers in the same way. **Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

Revelation 1:5-6 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Kings, meaning one who rules over God's domain.

Priest, meaning one who ministers for God, and to God.

God is Lord of His council, both Kings and Priests on earth and in Heaven.

All of His children, both in Heaven and on the earth, have the next highest rank by virtue of their relationship with him.

All of God's children are created beings of free will who have been given the assignment of decision-makers.

We know from **1 Kings 22** (and many other passages) says God's business involved interacting with human history.

The gods of **Psalms 82:1,6** are called "sons of the Most High God.

Psalms 82 God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods. 2 How long will you judge unjustly, And show partiality to the wicked? 3 Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. 4 Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked. 5 They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable. 6 I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. 7 But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.