

Genesis 1:26-27

***27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.***

When we read "*And God created man in his own image*" our minds form a mental picture of what we look like and then attribute this picture to God himself. In the Hebrews mind it is not the appearance of something that they concentrate on but its *function*. This passage is not implying a picture of man or God but their function. Through the Hebrew words of this text we see that God had placed within man a shadow or representation of his own function - goal, purpose, thought, etc. It is our responsibility to live our lives as representatives of God, acting in the same manner as he would.

Exodus 20:7 - You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain

Name (Strong's #8034)

In our modern western culture a name is nothing more than an identifier, really no different than being assigned a number. The Hebrew word for a name is שם (shem) But, in the Ancient Hebrews culture the "shem" is much more than just a name it is the "breath" of the individual. To the Hebrews the breath is more than just the exchange of air in the lungs it is his "character," the internal qualities of an individual that make him unique.

So, what does this mean? In Genesis 1:27 we saw that when it says "*God created man in his own image*" it is in fact saying that God had placed within us a representation of himself. This representation is his shem or character and we are to show this character to others. If however, we represent that character falsely, in other words live our lives contrary to the character of God, then we are violating this command. In the next passage we will take a closer look at what it means to be "filled with the image of God."

Exodus 28:3, "And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise (hhakham) hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."

These workmen are filled with the spirit of "wisdom" which is in the Hebrew חכמה (hhakhmah), the noun form of the verb חכם (hhakham).

A person with wisdom is one who has the ability **to understand distinction**. To separate between good and bad, right and wrong, the clean from the unclean, the common from the holy.

The word for priest in Hebrew is "kohen" and comes from a root meaning a base such as the base of a column. The koheniym (plural of kohen) are the structural support of the community. It is their responsibility to keep the community standing tall and straight, a sign of righteousness.

Revelation 1:5-6

⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom of priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10

⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made ^[d]us kings^[e] and priests to our God;
And ^[f]we shall reign on the earth."

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY

Matthew 5:48

Leviticus 11:44a-45 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

⁴⁴ For I am Yahweh your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy... ⁴⁵ For I am Yahweh, who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God, so you must be holy because I am holy.

Genesis 14:18-21- ESV

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Possessor^[a] of heaven and earth;

²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW THIS LOOKS (ITS MODELIMNG OR COPYING
(ILLUSTRATION)

Imaging is modeling God as distinct.

Jesus – the first born and the first fruits of the resurrection

Leviticus 27:30-33

³⁰ “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Hebrews 7:1-10

All believers in the New COVENANT tithe and give offerings to Jesus our High Priest.

- How do we do that? We imitate
- We model, we copy (Abraham)
- Money/ Resources - Produce and animals
- God must be first

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jesus – the first born and the first fruits of the resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-4. The GOSPEL is THE WHOLE STORY JESUS!

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Colossians 1:15-18

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by^[a] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Jesus was God's firstborn and firstfruit offering. He established the pattern for us to model "distinction" as a holy people... as a family.

Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be **the firstborn among many brothers.**

ILLUSTRATIONS

IMAGING water baptism, the Lords table and the tithe, SACRED TIMES

- What about Grace?
- But no imaging
- Without imaging - people can't see God
- People can't see God's mission without modeling

TIE IN MELCHEZEDK – ABRAM'S FIRST FRUITS WENT TO JERUSALEM AND ONE DAY WE WILL BE THE MELCHEZEDEK.....!!!

WILL WE IMAGE HIM IN FIRST FRUITS IN THIS SACRED TIME?

Sacred times are special days and seasons where he invites us to enter THE STORY in a special way! The whole story of Jesus; Who WAS and IS and IS TO COME.....The ALMIGHTY (shem)

***Give instructions for tithes/ offering**

PRAY Priestly blessing