

Moral Image and Moral Likeness

Description

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In the first chapter of Genesis we have a statement that God made man in his own *image* and after his own *likeness*. See chap. 1:26, 27. This account is often seized upon by our opponents, as good proof that man has a deathless spirit or some immortal principle dwelling within. The argument with them is this: "God is a being without body or parts," man is made in his likeness and image, therefore man must be in the *moral* likeness and *moral* image of his Creator. There are many conclusive reasons which may be advanced against this species of argument. We might argue that Jesus Christ is "in the form of God," Jesus Christ after his resurrection had "flesh and bones," man is in the image of Jesus Christ, therefore God is a personal being. This would be good argument, and quite satisfactory in itself; but there is another kind of testimony on this question which I have never heard advanced. It is the Bible use of the Hebrew words rendered *image* and *likeness* in the account of the formation of man. By the help of the *Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* (a work of great value, imported from London) we give the complete use of both words. The Hebrew terms for *image* and *likeness* are *tzeh-lem* and *dâ-mooth*, and from their use the reader may judge whether they import a *moral* signification. The following is their complete use, the words in italic being their translation.

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TZEH-LEM, or IMAGE

Gen. 1:26. Let us make man *in our image*.

27. God created man *in his (own) image*, *in the image of* God created he him;

5:3. in his own likeness, *after his image*;

9:6. *in the image of* God made he man.

Nu. 33:52. destroy all their molten *images*

1 Sam. 6:5. *images of* your emerods, and *images of* your mice,

11. *the images of* their emerods

2 Kings 11:18. *his images* brake they in pieces

2 Ch. 23:17, and brake his altars and *his images*,

Ps. 39:6. man walketh *in a vain shew*: (*marg. an image.*)

73:20. thou shalt despise their *image*,

Eze. 7:20. *but* they made the *images of* their abominations

16:17. madest to thyself *images of* men

23:14. *the images of* the Chaldeans

Amos 5:26. Moloch and Chiun, *your images*

Dan. 2:31. and behold a great *image*. This great *image*, whose brightness

32. This *image's* head (was) of fine gold

34. which smote *the image* upon his feet.

35. and the stone that smote *the image*.

3:1. the king made *an image* of gold,

2. to come to the dedication of *the image*.

3. unto the dedication of *the image*.

– and they stood before *the image*.

5. and worship *the golden image*.

7. (and) worshipped *the golden image*,

10. and worship *the golden image*.

12. *nor* worship *the golden image*,

14. *nor* worship *the golden image*,

15. fall down and worship *the image*,

18. *nor* worship *the golden image*

19. *and the form of* his visage was changed.

[It will be seen by the above that *tzeh-lem* in every instance but Dan. 3:19, except those in which it refers to man's being in the image of God, is applied to images made with hands, and can have reference to nothing but the physical form. The reader may judge whether its use in Gen. 1 & 9, are exceptions.]

Dâ??MOOTH, or LIKENESS

- Gen. 1:26. in our image, *after our likeness*;
- 5:1. *in the likeness of* God made he him;
3. begat (a son) *in his own likeness*
- 2 Kin. 16:10. *the fashion of* the altar,
- 2 Chron. 4:3. And under it (was) the *similitude of*
- Ps. 58:4. *like* the poison of a serpent; (marg. According to *the likeness of*)
- Isa. 13:4. *like as of* a great people; (marg. *the likeness of*.)
- 40:18. or what *likeness* will ye compare unto
- Eze. 1:5. *the likeness of* four living creatures
- they had *the likeness of* a man,
10. *As for the likeness of* their faces
13. *As for the likeness of* the living
16. *and* they four had one *likeness*;
22. *And the likeness of* the firmament
26. over their heads (was) *the likeness of*
- *the likeness of* the throne (was) *the likeness* as the appearance of a man
28. *the likeness of* the glory of the Lord,
- 8:2. *a likeness* as the appearance of fire;
- Eze. 10:1. *the likeness of* a throne
10. the four had one *likeness*
21. *and the likeness of* the hands
22. *And the likeness of* their faces
- 23:15. *after the manner of* the Babylonians
- Dan. 10:16. *like the similitude of* the sons of men