



“THEN GOD SAID, ‘LET US...’”

**“For years there has been much discussion about how we must understand the plural in “Let US make man.” Some scholars have interpreted this as a remaining vestige of an original polytheism. But this is certainly incorrect. The entire creation account is strongly monotheistic.....Some have argued that God took counsel with the angels.**

**This must be rejected because nowhere else in the Bible is it suggested that man was created in the image of angels. Others have suggested that this a plural of majesty or honor. This is impossible because the Hebrew does not have such a use of the plural...In light of all this, it would seem most acceptable to hold to the interpretation advanced by the ancient church fathers and universally accepted by scholars of the past, that this is a reference to the Triune God.**

**It would go without saying that this passage, standing by itself, would not constitute a clear proof of the Trinity. There is, for instance, no mention of the three here. But what is clearly indicated here is that God, in His unity, has a certain plurality.”**

**G. Ch. Aalders, Genesis vol. I, pp. 69-70.**

## Verse 26

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.”

## Verse 27

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

## PSALM 8:3-6

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”

**“The doctrine of man made in the image of God is one of the basic doctrines of the Bible and one of the most elevating, enlarging, magnanimous and glorious doctrines that I know.”**

**A.W. Tozer**



# IMAGE

The Hebrew word for image is selem.

It means “to cut off, chop out, or carve.”

Thus in many cases it comes to mean an idol.

# LIKENESS

The Hebrew word for likeness is demuth.

It means likeness, appearance, resemblance,  
copy, reproduction.

Likeness often refers to an external  
appearance.

## GENESIS 5:3

“When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.”

**“Very little distinction can be made  
between the two words.”**

**Horst Dietrich Preuss, Theological Dictionary of the  
Old Testament vol. III, p. 259.**

**“The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.”**

**Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 442.**









**“Inseparable from the notion of serving as a representative, the image functions as ruler in place of the deity...in the Ancient Near East it was widely believed that a god’s spirit lived in any statue or image of that god, with the result that the image could function as a kind of representative of or substitute for the god wherever it was placed. It was also customary in the ANE to think of a king as a representative of a god; obviously the king ruled, and the god was the ultimate ruler, so the king must be ruling on the god’s behalf.**

**It is therefore not surprising that these two separate ideas become connected and a king came to be described as an image of a god.”**

Ian Hart, Genesis 1:1-2:3 As a Prologue to the Books of Genesis.”



## VERSE 28

**“God blessed them; and God said to them,  
“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the  
earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish  
of the sea and over the birds of the sky  
and over every living thing that moves on  
the earth.”**



**“We become ourselves what we believe  
our beginning to be.”**

Gregory of Nyssa

**“If one believes oneself to be created of God, one will behave as God’s creation, under His sovereignty, reflecting His glory. But if one believes oneself to be descended from monkeys one will live as unrestrained and filthy animals with no conscience or moral compass.”**

Timothy T. Faber

**God created man in His own image.**

**Therefore every human being has great  
value.**



**“The way we treat others reflects  
our attitude toward the One in  
whose image they are made  
(cf. Matt. 25:31-46).”**

**Daniel Block, For the Glory of God, p. 96.**

**“The value given to you is intrinsic. It’s not extrinsic. Every human life is a life of worth and a life of value.”**

**Ravi Zacharias**

## GENESIS 9:6

**“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.”**

## JAMES 2:8-10

“No one can tame the tongue, it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”