**‘Man in the Image and Likeness of God’**

***26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*** Genesis 1:26

The sixth day of creation is the last work day of creation. Throughout this week God has been building one thing after another. Beginning with the foundation of a formless and void earth with water covering the face of the deep, God called forth light, and then He established a firmament (the first heaven) to separate the waters from the waters. Once this was done, he gathered the waters into one place so that dry land could appear. The earth was then told to bring forth vegetation and fruit trees. After this, lights in the firmament of the heavens (the second heaven) were called into being. These were for signs (signals from God), seasons (the Lord’s feast days), days, and years. Then the seas were commanded to swarm with living creatures, and birds were to fly in the skies above the earth, and the earth was told to bring forth living creatures. The creation of man is now at hand. **He is the crown of God’s creation.**[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) He is the only creature of the Creator’s genius who is made in the image and according to God’s likeness. But what does being made in the image and according to the likeness of the Creator mean?

n the simplest of terms, by creating man, God was placing upon the earth physical re-presentations of Himself. That may seem a bit amazing to us, even hard to believe, but it is nevertheless true. God created us in His image and according to His likeness so that we would rule the earth **as He would rule it,** only in His stead.

How would we have ever done this?

We would have done it in the exact same way as Jesus did. Jesus told us what that way was in the following verses:

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”*** John 5:19

***“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”*** John 6:38

***So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.”*** John 8:28

Jesus depended upon seeing what His Father was doing and hearing what His Father was speaking BEFORE he did or said anything. That’s what we would have been doing had sin not entered into the picture. Had sin not entered into human history, we would have been taking our cues continually from God. As we took our cues from God, His rule and reign would have spread through us, until the earth would have been filled with heaven.

Unfortunately, sin did enter into the world, and when it did, the image and likeness of God in man became unrecognizable. We have not been the re-presentatives of God we were created to be in the earth. We have not been the governors of the earth and everything according to God’s will. Earth has not been filled with heaven and so the earth groans under our rule. That’s bad, but it gets even worse. How so, you ask? This is how.

**Because we did not realize that we were created to be God’s image-bearers in the earth,** man has foolishly made “images” of gold, silver, stone, and wood, and claimed these things to be their “gods,” and filled the earth with them! These things are NOT “gods,” and they most certainly do NOT bear God’s image. They cannot see, hear, speak, or move. They do nothing except offend the Living God. Is it any wonder why God has such harsh things to say about them and why those who worship them come under such great judgment by God?

It is wonderful to know that sin is not going to have the last word. God will, and that word is this, ***And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”*** [[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)

Amen and Amen.

Kathleen

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) The phrase “crown of God’s creation” isn’t found in the Bible. It is, however, used to convey the uniqueness of mankind. Mankind was the pinnacle of God’s creation, the only creature created in the “image” and according to the “likeness” of God.

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2016/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref2) Revelation 21:5