

Biblical texts on Man (Gen 1:26,27) and Christ as the "image" of God

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Some references to **Man** (Gen 1:26,27) and **Christ** as the image/likeness of God (or as reflecting God's nature, qualities, and power)

- **IMAGE** (or: *resemblance* or *likeness*)
 - Hebrew: *tselem* <Strong's Hebrew # 06754>. This Hebrew word is translated in the *KJV* as follows: *image* or *images* Gen 1:26,27, Gen 5:3, Gen 9:6; Num 33:52, 1Sa 6:5,11, 2Ki 11:18, 2Ch 23:17, Psa 73:20, Eze 7:20, Eze 16:17, Eze 23:14, Amo 5:26; Chaldee: *tselem*. This Chaldee word *tselem* is translated in the *KJV* always as *image* in Dan 2:31-35 and Dan 3:1-19.
- **LIKENESS** (or: *similitude*)
 - Hebrew: *demuth* <Strong's Hebrew # 01823>. This Hebrew word is translated in the *KJV* as follows: *likeness* Gen 1:26, Gen 5:1,3, Isa 40:18, Eze 1:5-28, Eze 8:2, Eze 10:1-22; *fashion* 2Ki 16:10; *similitude* 2Ch 4:3, Dan 10:16; *after the manner of* Eze 23:15.
- **IMAGE/LIKENESS OF GOD**
 - Gen 1:1,2,26,27,31
 - 1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,... 26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our **image**, according to our **likeness**... 27 So God created humankind in his **image**, in the **image** of God he created them; male and female he created them....31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. [NRSV]
 - Joh 5:19,30
 - 19 Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise... 30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. [NRSV]
 - 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am *he*, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. 29 And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." [NRSV]
- **Note:** In verse 28, "I am he," is simply "*ego eimi*" in the Greek New Testament. "He" is not in the Greek text. *Ego eimi* means, "I have being" -- specifically in John, "I have timeless being." The writer of John's Gospel repeatedly uses the phrase *Ego eimi* as a reference to Exodus 3:14, where God reveals himself as "I Am Who I Am," which in the Greek Septuagint Old Testament (the "Bible" used by the early Christians) was "*Ego eimi ho qn*" [English word-for-word: *I am the being.*] Thus, the *TEV* appropriately translates this passage, "So he said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, you will know that 'I Am Who I Am'; then you will know that I do nothing on my own authority, but I say only what the Father has instructed me to say. " This further reinforces the Gospel of John's references to the *Logos* -- and to Christ Jesus -- as the Revealer of God and his creation. See also, <http://www.bibletexts.com/terms/i-am.htm>.
- Joh 10:36-38
 - 36 can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."
- Joh 14:7-12
 - 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.
- Joh 17:3
 - 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world....16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."
- Joh 20:16,17

- 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”
 - Rom 8:28,29
- 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, 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 within a large family. [NRSV]
 - 1Co 15:48,49
- 45 Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the **image** of the man of heaven. [NRSV]
 - 2Co 3:17,18
- 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same **image** from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. [NRSV]
 - Col 1:12-16
- 12 ...The Father... enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. [NRSV]
 - Eph 4:22-24
- 22 Get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to—the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. 23 Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, 24 and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's **likeness** and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy. (TEV)
 - Col 3:9-11
- 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the **image** of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! [NRSV]
 - Phi 2:5-13
- 5 The attitude [NRSV: mind] you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: 6 He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. 7 Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. 8 He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross. 9 For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 ...Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, 13 because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose. (TEV)
 - Heb 1:1-3
- 1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. [NRSV]
 - Clement of Alexandria (150-215 A.D.) in his *Exhortation to the Greeks 10*, as found in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Genesis I-II*, edited by Andrew Louth and Marco Conti (Downers Grove, IL, USA: InterVarsity Press, 2001, page 29):
 - For "the image of God" is his Word (and the divine Word, the light who is the archetype of light, is a genuine son of Mind [the Father]); and an image of the Word is the true man, that is, the mind of man, who on this account is said to have been created "in the image" of God and "in his likeness," because through his understanding heart he is made like the divine Word or Reason [*Logos*], and so rational [*logikos*].
 - S&H 94:1
 - S&H 301:17
 - S&H 516:24-30
 - Man 15:6
 - Mis 97:20-5
 - Ret 64:1-8
 - Ret 70:20-25
 - [The terms "image" and "likeness" are used over 200 times in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and over 200 times in *Prose Works*.]

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