

الحمد لله وحده، والصلاة والسلام على من لا
نبي بعده، وعلى آله وصحبه، أما بعدُ

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته



LESSON 12

ARE WE LIKE GOD? DID GOD CREATE US IN HIS OWN IMAGE?

“THERE IS NOTHING WHATSOEVER LIKE HIM”

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MCMC LEARNING SERIES:

CONTEMPORARY COMPREHENSION OF THE IMAN: BELIEFS, ARGUMENTS AND PROOFS



THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1 ... 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.” **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.” ...



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS

Made in the "image of God" simply means that **people are spiritually like Jehovah God Almighty** to some extent. He has given humans some of the spiritual aspects He has: the ability to think and reason, an innate knowledge of right and wrong, a conscience, a full spectrum of emotions, and the need for spiritual things in order to be truly happy.



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS

Who is really made in the image of God?

Being 'made in the image of God' means that we have mind, emotions and **will** because God has mind, emotions and will and He created us to be like him in these ways. He is the source of what we find in us. We are self-aware and conscious of 'I' and 'you'.



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

What it means to be created in the image of God is that first of all, **we are created with the capacity to become like God.**

Secondly, being made in the image of God gives us dignity.

And thirdly, being made in the image of God gives us certain responsibilities. First, we have been given the capacity to become like God.



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE - CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS

Humans Resemble God

God made you like him. Just like you resemble your parents and are made in their “image,” so also there are several characteristics you share with God.

CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

There are a number of authentic ahadith that Allah created Adam in His image (i.e. Allah's image). Here are some of them:

Bukhari and Muslim narrate from Abu Hurayrah that the prophet said:

خَلَقَ اللَّهُ آدَمَ عَلَى صُورَتِهِ طُولُهُ سِتُّونَ ذِرَاعًا فَلَمَّا خَلَقَهُ قَالَ اذْهَبْ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَى
أَوْلَائِكَ النَّفَرِ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ جُلُوسٌ فَاسْتَمِعَ مَا يُحْيُونَكَ فَإِنَّمَا تَحْيِيَّتُكَ وَتَحِيَّةُ ذُرِّيَّتِكَ
فَقَالَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَقَالُوا السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ فَزَادُوهُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ فَكُلُّ مَنْ
يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ عَلَى صُورَةِ آدَمَ فَلَمْ يَزَلْ الْخَلْقُ يَنْقُصُ بَعْدُ حَتَّى الْآنَ



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

Translation of previous hadith:

“Allah created Adam in His image. His height was 60 dhira’. When He created him, He said: ‘go and greet that group of angels sitting and listen to their reply for it is your greeting and that of your progeny.’ So he said **السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ** and they said **السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ** . So they added **وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ** to his greeting. So all will enter Jannah in the image of Adam, and they continued to decrease in height until now.”



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

Another hadith, narrated by Abu Hurayrah & compiled by Muslim:

إِذَا قَاتَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَخَاهُ فَلْيَجْتَنِبِ الْوَجْهَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ خَلَقَ آدَمَ عَلَى صُورَتِهِ

“When any of you fights his brother, let him avoid the face, for Allah created Adam in His image.”

How do the scholars understand these ahadith?



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

**These statements do not imply Tashbih (likening creation to Allah).
Nothing is like Allah.**

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ ۗ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.
(42:11)



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

The eyes, ears, face, hands, etc. of Allah are mentioned in the Qur'an and authentic hadith. We cannot deny them or negate them. They are Attributes of Allah just as hearing, seeing, knowing, speaking, etc. are Attributes of Allah.

However, He does not resemble creation nor does creation resemble Him. While humans have these attributes, but there is a vast difference between Allah's Attributes and those of creation. We also cannot explain them away.



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE – WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY?

Another possible interpretation:

“His image” does not mean “the likeness of Allah” but it means “the image that Allah chose for Adam”.

When a car maker designs a car, we can say it is the maker’s design or image.



DU'A

وآخر دعوانا أن الحمد لله رب العالمين